

**BUCKEYE**

# **GUARD**

MAGAZINE OF THE OHIO ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD  
SUMMER/FALL 2006

## **A NEW BEGINNING**

**REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
PARTNERSHIP WITH  
OHIO NATIONAL GUARD  
TO BE A FORCE FOR  
REGIONAL STABILITY**

PAGES 20-21



# promoting strength from within the guard recruiting assistance program



## Take Control of Unit End Strength

Earn up to **\$2,000** for each new recruit who enlists and reports to Basic Training



Guard Recruiting Assistants can earn \$2,000 for each new recruit who enlists and reports to Basic Training.



Upon enlistment, the RA will receive an initial payment of \$1,000, with a second \$1,000 payment upon successful shipment to Basic Training.



The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) is a contracted program designed for individuals who voluntarily apply online at [www.GuardRecruitingAssistant.com](http://www.GuardRecruitingAssistant.com) to become eligible to serve as a part-time Recruiter Assistant (RA). The RA applicant will be verified and hired by a contractor, not the ARNG.

## Retirees Now Eligible!

- Army National Guard Soldiers must be retired for a minimum of six (6) months to be eligible.
- Retirement orders must be faxed or emailed to Docupak upon program application.
- Retirees will enjoy the same payment schedule and access to the Mission Zone materials as current RAs.

*Note: exact payment timelines vary depending upon prior service/non-prior status and availability of training seats.*

# NATIONAL GUARD

## RECRUITING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

# BUCKEYE GUARD

Volume 29, No. 2

roll call

Summer/Fall 2006

The *Buckeye Guard* is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the *Buckeye Guard* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Departments of the Army and Air Force, or the Adjutant General of Ohio. The *Buckeye Guard* is published quarterly under the supervision of the Public Affairs Office, Ohio Adjutant General's Department, 2825 W. Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Adjutant General of Ohio's Director, Government and Public Affairs. Direct communication is authorized to the Editor, phone: (614) 336-7003; fax: (614) 336-7410; or send e-mail to [buckeye@tagoh.gov](mailto:buckeye@tagoh.gov). The *Buckeye Guard* is distributed free to members of the Ohio Army and Air National Guard and to other interested persons at their request. Guardmembers and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain *Buckeye Guard* readers, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Circulation is 19,000. Deadlines are:

Spring, **January 15**  
Summer, **April 15**  
Fall, **July 15**  
Winter, **October 15**

This issue was printed in December 2006 by Watkins Printing, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Government under exclusive written contract with the Ohio Adjutant General's Department. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services advertised by the U.S. Army and Air Force or Watkins Printing. Everything advertised in this publication will be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher will refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

## ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**State Commander-in-Chief**  
Gov. Bob Taft

**Adjutant General**  
Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt

**Assistant Adjutant General, Air**  
Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." Feucht

**Assistant Adjutant General, Army**  
Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic

**Command Sergeant Major, Army**  
Command Sgt. Maj. William L. Gilliam

**Command Chief Master Sergeant, Air**  
Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy

## BUCKEYE GUARD STAFF

**Director, Government and Public Affairs**  
Dr. Mark Wayda

**Editor**  
Mr. Steve Toth

**Editorial Assistant**  
Staff Sgt. Kimberly Snow

**Photographic Support**  
Mr. Todd Cramer

**Contributors**  
Army/Air National Guard Photojournalists  
ANG Multimedia Specialists  
Unit Public Affairs Representatives



SGT BENJAMIN COSSEL / 196TH MPAD

**SPC Tommy Gimlich of the Columbus-based 186th Engineering Detachment threads electrical wire as he and other Soldiers of the unit work to finish the wiring at the Niños de la Luz school house. For more on Ohio National Guard operations in Honduras during New Horizons 2006, see pages 9-15.**



## FEATURES

- 8 Getting in gear**  
Members of Ohio's 16th Engineer Brigade teach Iraqi Army how to operate, maintain military Humvees.
- 18 Honoring our ONG Heroes**  
WW II chaplain, SF Soldier both lived to serve others.
- 22 Homeland help**  
ONG Civil Support Team trains to be ready to move out quickly.
- 25 Roots of recruiting success**  
Now one of nation's top R&R programs, Ohio Army National Guard recognized for quality, performance.

## DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Command focus**
- 4 National news**
- 6 Citizen spotlight**
- 7 Feedback from the field**
- 28 Buckeye briefs**
- 30 All about people**
- 32 Guardmember benefits**

## ON THE COVER

**FORGING A NEW ALLIANCE:** Serbian President Boris Tadić (left) is accompanied by Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, as they arrive Sept. 8 at the Ohio State University Airport in northwest Columbus for a ceremony announcing the planned partnership between Serbia and the Ohio National Guard through the National Guard State Partnership Program. *Photo by SSG Kimberly Snow / 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.* For more on the ONG-Serbia partnership, see pages 20-21.



on the web @ <http://www.ohionationalguard.com>

# Tougher training reflects global environment in which we're serving

by Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy  
State Command Chief Master Sergeant, Air

**A**s I've said many times before, you are a select group of individuals, "less than 1 percent."

Of nearly 300 million Americans, only 2.5 million serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. Do the math, and you see we are far less than 1 percent of the American public. You continue to do it all—Global War on Terrorism and Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) deployments, hurricane relief, border patrols, nation building, inspections and more. You are truly amazing!

The Air Force has been at war nonstop since January 1991. That's right, not 2001, but 1991. Desert Storm turned into Operations Southern Watch and Northern Watch, and every day, U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard aircraft and personnel were targeted. This Global War on Terrorism is ongoing and as a result, you have all evolved into Expeditionary Airmen. Everyone deploys now. Are you ready? Are you using every hour of every drill to prepare?

Starting in October 2007, Basic Military Training (BMT) will expand to 8 ½ weeks. You will carry a weapon throughout. Our fitness requirements—run times, push-ups, sit-ups and waist measurements—equal or exceed the other services. Fit to Fight is here to stay. You must not only be the consummate technician and subject matter expert in your Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC), but you must be ready to be Battlefield Airmen. We have mourned the loss of nine Ohio Guardmembers. Four Ohio Guard Airmen and 90 Ohio Guard Soldiers now wear the Purple Heart. We are an evolving force of combat-ready Americans.

With ancillary training increasing each year, we can't fit it all into 24 Unit Training Assembly (UTA) days plus annual training. Although the Air Directors Field Advisory Council and the Enlisted Field Advisory Council are pushing to cap the ancillary training time—we're getting close to a 16-32 hour cap on all non-AFSC training—it's not approved yet. Train, mentor and drive basic Airmanship skills, and use every hour of every training period. Stress our professional military education and leadership training to help shape our future leaders. Soon, all enlisted Professional Military Education (PME) courses will add cultural training hours. At future NCOA and SNCOA classes you may be placed in Arabic, Spanish or Chinese cultural tracks.

Changes are happening daily, but all Ohio Airmen will have a mission and slot. Ohio leads the way with the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) and our four wings (including GSUs) are the four leading G-RAP units in the nation.

The most important lesson now is remembering our team. The WINGMAN program begins on day one of basic training. Our youngest daughter, Aubrey, graduated from BMT earlier this year. In her first letter home, she wrote a note to her teenage brothers on the back: "My Wingman is from *Laguna Beach High*." Her brothers were excited to



**CMSgt Christopher Muncy**

meet someone who might have been on the MTV reality show. As a dad and command chief, I was happy to see the first two words—"My Wingman." From day one, Airmen have a Wingman to watch over them. Do you have a Wingman? Not just in Iraq or Afghanistan, but here at home?

You are all great Americans, heroes and a part of a unique generation. The entire ANG fits into the OSU Horseshoe—the entire ANG. Three hundred million Americans and all of the free world look to you to protect and defend them. They couldn't pick a greater group to meet the challenge. Keep being a great mentor and Wingman to a grateful nation. **CG**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Muncy and Gilliam's offices have been located adjacent to the adjutant general and assistants adjutant general for Army and Air for nearly two years. It is the first time in recent history that Ohio's senior officer and enlisted leadership have had co-located offices. Muncy said this emphasizes the commitment of Ohio's senior leaders to the state's enlisted force, which comprises more than 90 percent of the Ohio National Guard team.*



CSM William L. Gilliam

# Soldiers, Airmen who make up this team truly are special

by Command Sgt. Maj. William L. Gilliam  
State Command Sergeant Major, Army

**W**ow, how time flies. It's been over three years since I was selected to fill the state command sergeant major position, and I can honestly tell you, it has been a great journey. No

one in the Ohio Army National Guard can possibly have a better job than I.

I've been fortunate to be able to travel with Maj. Gen. (Gregory L.) Wayt and Brig. Gen. (Matthew L.) Kambic to visit our great Soldiers during their many deployments and annual training exercises. Our troops are doing many great things in many different and sometimes harsh locations. They have seen combat in Iraq and Afghanistan and conducted security and humanitarian missions throughout Europe and Central America. Within our own borders, they have supported our homeland defense and Border Patrol missions, and quickly responded with ready units when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged the U.S. Gulf Coast.

Believe me, our Soldiers and Airman are the best. Everywhere we go, we constantly hear about the difference they are making, and how they are stepping up to accept any mission. I'm truly proud of each and every one of them, and the great job they are doing.

Today, we continue to face many challenges. We have undergone changes in uniforms, education requirements, the promotion system and Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report (NCOER) procedures. And right now, the Ohio Army National Guard is undergoing its largest transformation since World War II. Nearly all of our units will be impacted in some way. Some units are inactivating and new units are being stood up. But mark my words: all Ohio Army National Guardmembers who wish to remain in the Guard will have a home.

Our training exercises and planning procedures are only a couple of the items that set us apart from our counterparts in other states. It's truly amazing to watch our staff in action during table top exercises and planning sessions. Training events like Vigilant Guard helped make the Ohio National Guard a huge success during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and our planning for a po-

tential pandemic influenza response will ensure our success if and when our services are needed. Watching our commanders and command sergeants major focus on critical areas reminds me that we can do many great things when we focus on our senior leaders' visions and priorities.

I've had the pleasure of watching our state grow in end strength to well over 100 percent, shoot to the top of the national order of merit list and win a key award in the Army Communities of Excellence program. I was there when Brig. Gen. Kambic observed weapons qualifications and recognized the need for a weapons training team to teach and mentor our Soldiers to shoot and survive on the battlefield—one of our most important basic Soldier skills. When he assembled the team, I had the pleasure of watching our NCO corps make it happen. What a huge success our Master Weapons Training Team (MWTT) was during annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich., in 2006! Our MWTT set a new standard for weapons qualification, weapons safety and training for our units, with a qualification rate well over 80 percent during the annual training period—the best I've ever seen.

We've done many great things over the past few years, and though we always have room for improvement, you continue to outdo yourselves. I am honored, humbled and proud to say—at any time and in any place—that I am Ohio's state command sergeant major. Thank you, Soldiers and Airmen, for a job exceptionally well done. God bless our fighting forces. **AG**

## KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft: 50 years old and still going

SAN ANTONIO—The Air Force's KC-135 Stratotanker fleet celebrated 50 years in September enhancing fighter, bomber and cargo aircraft missions.

The multirole tanker's primary mission is to refuel Air Force, sister service and coalition aircraft, but it also fills other jobs, including airlifting cargo, transporting passengers, medically evacuating patients and flying reconnaissance all around the world.

"You can truly experience all of the missions of the Air Force from the KC-135," said Lt. Col. Bryan Crutchfield, 350th Air Refueling Squadron commander at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan. "We fly and fight to enable air mobility around the world."

The 22nd Air Refueling Wing at McConnell Air Force Base is one of only four active-duty KC-135 Stratotanker wings in the Air Force, the colonel said. Among the reserve components, the Ohio Air National Guard's 121st Air Refueling Wing, located at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, is one of a select few such wings that support worldwide mid-air refueling missions.

Celebration activities for the KC-135 Stratotanker's 50 years of service culminated in a banquet Sept. 9 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

Lt. Gen. Christopher A. Kelly, vice commander of Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., was the keynote speaker. The general, a command pilot with more than 3,900 flying hours, spoke of the challenges of air refueling.

"Aviation, by its very nature, is inherently dangerous," he said. "Let's compound that now by saying we are going to take another airplane—you name the size—from a C-5 (Galaxy) down to an F-16 (Fighting Falcon) or anything in between, that has an air refueling receptacle.

"We are going to drive that second airplane at about 300 mph up behind another airplane that happens to have a boom device on it. We are going extend that boom out to approximately 25 feet, and we are going to ask these two airplanes to join together," Kelly said. "Then through a small device, we are going to pump highly volatile kerosene fuel from one airplane to another.

"Does it sound remarkable? Does it sound miraculous? It is a miracle to me."

Kelly expressed pride in the remarkable people who fly and maintain the KC-135.



SSGT DOUGLAS NICODEMUS / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING MULTIMEDIA CENTER

**A U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker refueling aircraft lands after completing a mission supporting operations in Afghanistan. Members of the 121st Air Refueling Wing deployed to this location in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, as part of Aerospace Expeditionary Forces (AEF) 9 and 10 .**

"They help us preserve our freedom, preserve those things we hold most dear and continue to build on the foundation our forefathers and those folks who have served this great nation to this very moment have built," he said. "And we all need to remember that, 'nobody wins wars without tanker gas!'" **AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS**

## Army Knowledge Online improves search engine capabilities for users

FORT BELVOIR, Va.—Army Knowledge Online recently launched Phase I of an improved search functionality.

"The new, more powerful and better-looking 'search' provides an intuitive interface and more relevant results," said Lt. Col. Ken Fritzsche, AKO's chief of operations.

The improved search feature is part of AKO's ongoing process to upgrade and improve. The first stage of improvements began Aug. 26 with the fielding of the new AKO home page.

"This search upgrade is the most revolutionary change since AKO's inception. New search options are in direct response to customer feedback and will better assist account holders in finding material," Fritzsche said.

The first new option allows users to search all content types at once.

"AKO began a study in November 2005 to statistically identify what users searched for most often," Fritzsche said. "Statistics revealed that about 80 percent of the top 500 hits on AKO were for personal use, such as myPay, ERB, OPMF and safety."

For more information on the improved search function, go to [www.us.army.mil](http://www.us.army.mil) and click on "Search Upgrade Overview." **LETA DEYERLE / ARMY NEWS SERVICE**

## Airman Battle Uniforms set for distribution in Summer 2007

WASHINGTON—The new Airman Battle Uniform is moving into production and on track for distribution to deploying Airmen next summer.

Patterns have been finalized and are being run through production to ensure sizing and garment construction as well as preparing for assembly-line operations, according to Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos, Air Force uniform board superintendent.

Senior leaders want the warfighters to get the first ABUs, and Airmen deploying in the air and space expeditionary cycle 7/8 in May 2007 will receive two sets each of the new ABU and the current deployment uniform, the Desert Combat Uniform.

Airmen embedded with Army units will get four ABU sets which lets them blend in more with their service counterparts.

While the Army and the Air Force combat/battle uniforms will look similar from a distance, the Air Force distinctive pattern includes a slate-blue shade in addition to foliage green, desert sand and urban gray shades. The pattern is pixilated or "digital" like the Marine Corps and Army but is based on a pixilated Vietnam-era tiger stripe pattern.

The expected mandatory wear date for the ABU is 2011. **SSGT SHAD EIDSON / AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS**

# Recently enacted state, federal initiatives provide added benefits

Although both the Congress and the Ohio Legislature took summer breaks, as well as time for election season, several new legislative initiatives have become effective over the last few months. Some of these initiatives will affect members from all branches of the military, while some are specific to guardmembers.

**New federal hiring preferences for retired veterans.** Veterans honorably discharged after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks started getting a hiring preference for jobs in the federal government. As part of a defense spending bill, earlier this year, Congress voted to extend the veterans preference to all military personnel honorably discharged after serving at least 180 consecutive days on active duty with any part of that service after the Sept. 11 attacks. The preference gives qualified veterans extra points on federal employment exams and requires federal agencies to hire a qualified veteran over non-veterans with similar test scores and qualifications.

**Department of Justice launches website on servicemembers' rights.** Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzalez announced Aug. 14 a new web site that would help the Justice Department keep civil rights laws for American servicemembers a priority. The Justice Department website, [www.servicemembers.gov](http://www.servicemembers.gov), outlines servicemembers' rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act and the Service Members Civil Relief Act.

**New income-replacement program for active servicemembers.** A New Defense Department program should ease the financial hardships of some activated National Guardmembers and Reservists who sustain income loss when on active duty. The Reserve Income Replacement Program (RIRP) will pay those eligible the difference between their total monthly military pay and their 12-month average civilian income (if greater than \$50) up to a maximum of \$3,000 per month. Congress created RIRP in the fiscal year

2006 Defense Authorization Act. The program expires at the end of 2008. Program payments, however, are not automatic. Guardmembers and Reservists must apply for the RIRP payments through their service personnel offices. Complete RIRP information, including a downloadable eligibility verification form, can be found at [www.defenselink.mil/ra/](http://www.defenselink.mil/ra/).

**Adjutant General's Department now reimbursing life insurance premiums.** Last year, the state Legislature enacted law that reimbursed guardmembers on active duty for their Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) policies. In fiscal year 2006, the department received more than 3,000 requests for reimbursements from Soldiers and Airmen. Not everyone eligible for receiving SGLI reimbursement

benefits have submitted paperwork. If you have been deployed on federal or state active duty since July 1, 2005, you are eligible for premium reimbursement for

those months you were deployed. If you were a member of the Ohio Air National Guard during the time of your qualifying deployment, contact your unit. If you were in the Ohio Army National Guard during the time of your qualifying deployment, then contact your unit readiness NCO, battalion personnel services NCO, or Master Sgt. Shirley Parmi at (614) 336-7331.

**Ohio National Guard Service Medals now available.** Former Ohio National Guardmembers now can order Ohio National Guard Service Medals. The medal was created by the state Legislature earlier this year and is available to all former Ohio National Guardmembers who received an honorable or medical discharge. Those who want to order a medal may send a check or money order for \$16.61 made out to "Treasurer, State of Ohio," along with proof of ONG service and a return address to: Ohio Adjutant General's Department, Attention: J1 (Personnel), 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789. **AG**

*Johann Klein is legislative liaison for the Adjutant General's Department*

## legislative look

with johann klein



TOLEDO

## Command profile



**Col Mark E. Bartman**

180th Fighter Wing

Age: 47

**Full-Time Position:** 180th FW commander

**Hometown:** Worthington, Ohio

**Family:** wife, Christi; children, Ashley, Nathan and Aubrey

**When I was younger,**

**I wanted to:** be a pilot

**Most recent achievement:** being selected as the 180th FW commander

**The last good movie I saw was:**

*The Great Raid*

**The book I'm reading is:**

*Built to Last,*

by Jim Collins and Jerry I. Porras

**My favorite recreation activity:** golf

**Heroes:** my father who was a World War II pilot that flew the "hump" in the China-Burma-India theater

**Nobody knows I'm:**

the Cubmaster of my son's Cub Scout Pack and an Eagle Scout myself

**I'm better than anyone else at:** playing "H-O-R-S-E" in the driveway (as long as anyone is my 10-year-old son!)

**I would give anything to meet:** Gens.

"Hap" Arnold and Jimmy Doolittle

**My biggest pet peeve is:**

people who don't take responsibility for their own actions

**The three words that best describe me:** responsible, fair,

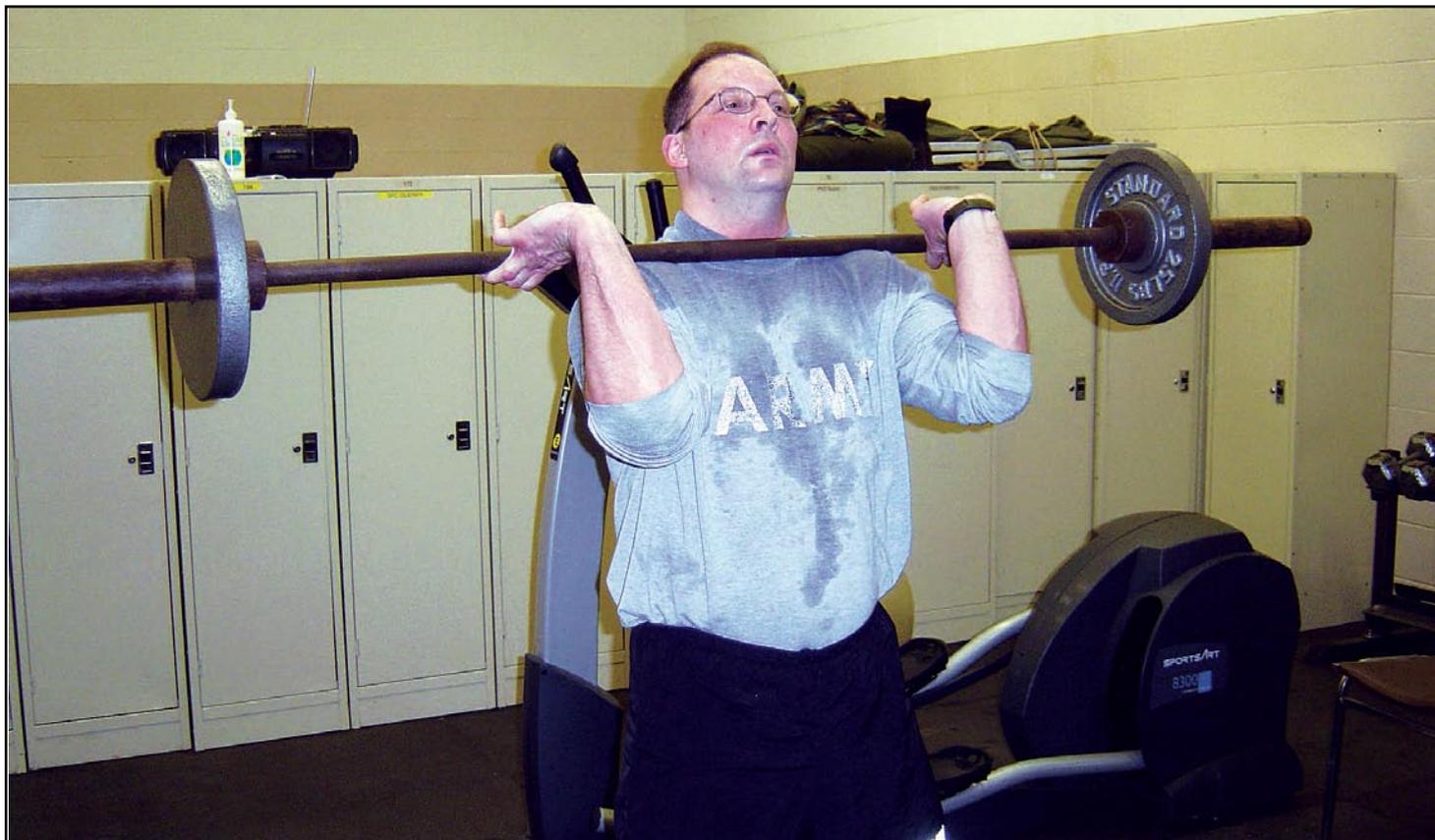
non-judgemental

**If I could leave today's**

**guardmembers with one piece of**

**advice it would be:** to be true to the

core values of integrity first, service before self, excellence in all we do, strength in our diverse family and commitment to the Citizen-Airman heritage



Anthony Thomas, who recently re-enlisted into the Ohio Army National Guard, has competed in weightlifting for several years.

## Sport lifts guardmember's competitive spirit, fitness level

Story and photo by Spc. Hugh J. Martin,  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-107th Cavalry

Whether serving in the Army or competing in weightlifting events, one Ohio National Guardmember has always been traveling around the country or overseas.

During his first stint in the Army in 1991-1995, Spc. Anthony Thomas was stationed in Munich, Germany, Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Carson, Colo. His involvement in weightlifting has taken him to competitions in Kentucky, Arizona, California and Puerto Rico.

Thomas, who said he loves to travel, is a chaplain's assistant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-107th Cavalry in Stow. Born in Bay Village, Ohio, Thomas grew up in Cleveland and began weightlifting competitively at 15. At 19, he took second place in the Teenage Nationals, his first competition.

While serving in the National Guard from 1998 to 2001 as a medic, Thomas achieved his best accomplishment as a weightlifter. In August 2000, he qualified for the highly competitive Pan Am Masters in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

"For me personally, it was exciting because that was my first international competition ever," Thomas said.

Thomas competed in the 231-pound (105 kg) weight class at the competition, which consisted of two events—the snatch, and the clean-and-jerk. He described the snatch as lifting the bar in one continuous motion from the floor and up over the head. The clean-and-jerk consists of two motions. The competitor lifts the bar from the floor up to the shoulders, and then from the shoulders, up over the head.

About 120 men from North America, South America, Canada and the Caribbean Islands competed in the tournament. Thomas competed against five other men in his weight class. They were judged on the best of three attempts in each event. Thomas' final numbers were 209 pounds (95 kg) in the snatch, and 264 pounds (120 kg) in the clean-and-jerk.

"Out of five guys, I took second place and got a silver medal," Thomas said proudly.

In his civilian job, Thomas works as a nursing assistant at Lutheran Hospital in west Cleveland.

"I missed it," Thomas said about rejoining the military for the third time. "As soon as I saw 9/11 on TV, I volunteered to go to Iraq, but I never went because the unit wasn't taking volunteers at the time. I also just like the military and I like learning."

On April 8, 2006, Thomas re-enlisted for six years and received a \$15,000 bonus. He said he's considering pursuing a commission following this enlistment. As for weightlifting, his next goal is qualifying for the World Masters in Bordeaux, France.

"It is the equivalent to the Olympics, except the weightlifters are older," he said. "The age for the Masters is 35 years and older."

Thomas said he has always loved competing. In high school he participated in track, football and wrestling. Today, he continues to train for many reasons.

"My health is the main reason, but also to look good and feel good about myself. I have been doing it since I was 15 years old," he said. "I also meet a lot of people at the meets and it is interesting to socialize with them and learn about different cultures and ideas." **86**

**Calling all OHARNG warrant officers**

The second annual Warrant Officer Muster/Conference/Dinner will take place March 10-11, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency and Drury Inns in downtown Columbus. This will be a two-day event, so please mark your calendars for that weekend.

It is very important that Ohio Army National Guard warrant officers attend, so you will be aware of the latest information and changes that have occurred recently. As your state command chief warrant officer, I am giving each of you a personal invitation to attend this event. I ask each of you to remember that our strength is only improved through your attendance. There is strength in numbers.

More details concerning this event will be put out in the future. If you have questions or want more information, call me at (614) 336-7265.

**CW5 DALE D. FINCHER**  
STATE COMMAND CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER

**Airman says Serbian mission shows volunteer spirit can pay dividends**

On Wednesday, Sept. 6, I got a phone call from Chief Master Sgt. Rudy Dalton (121st Air Refueling Wing command chief) asking me to take a vacation day from my civilian job in order to participate in a formal ceremony two days later for Serbian President Boris Tadić, Ohio Gov. Bob Taft, U.S. Sen. George Voinovich and Ohio National Guard leadership at the state headquarters in northwest Columbus.

On its face that may not sound like an unreasonable request but he followed up his request by stating that he could not pay me for my participation nor could he allow me to participate in exchange for a future UTA (unit training assembly) drill day. So often we as guardmembers are coaxed into volunteering, i.e. Veterans Day parades, food drives, and so on with the caveat that we will be excused from a future UTA drill day in lieu of the date that we volunteer. With vacation days at a premium, initially I may have been a little hesitant to take him up on his request, but if you know CCM Dalton like I do, it was obvious that the phone call was not going to end until I agreed to participate (note to self: have CCM Dalton added to my telemarketer “do not call list.”)

So that Friday, I arrived at the headquarters in a crisp Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) at 8 a.m. as requested. I was not alone, there were 31 other Ohio Air National Guardmembers ready to participate, and while some of them may have been there in a pay status because they were Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) or (federal) technicians and this particular ceremony was being conducted during their regular duty hours, I suspect there were other traditional guardmembers like me who were

there in a no pay status. After an informal walk through of the approximately one to one-and-a-half hour ceremony to be held later that same afternoon, we took a lunch break and by noon we were in place for the official ceremony. Standing in the afternoon sun in my BDU while we waited for the arrival of the official party brought a little self-doubt and second guessing as to whether or not I should have volunteered for this assignment. Finally, the official party arrived to the ceremony location via Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. It was when I could see the helicopters on the horizon that I started to think that this was going to be, dare I say, exciting. The ceremony went off as planned, President Tadić was very well-spoken and while his speech was obviously prepared, his answers to the press directly after the ceremony were off the cuff and candid. I was very impressed with his responses regarding his definition of democracy, which he stated was something to the effect “individuals having differences of opinions but working together regardless.”

And surprisingly President Tadić did not beat around the bush when he stated that he considered Kosovo, which has been under United Nations administration since 1999, to be part of Serbia. As the official party departed the area in a slew of shiny black cars and SUVs, it occurred to me that I had truly witnessed something that was not only pretty awesome but in the scheme of things, very significant with regard to future relations between the country of Serbia, the United States and the Ohio National Guard.

The moral of my story is...don't let the non-availability of a day of pay or a future UTA drill day excusal be a deal breaker when you are called upon to volunteer. You could miss out on something that is truly special. Interestingly enough I found this definition of volunteer in my Oxford Desk Dictionary and Thesaurus: *1. Person who voluntarily undertakes a task or enters military service. Undertake or offer voluntarily. 2. Make a voluntary offer of one's services; be a volunteer.* Voluntary simply states: *Unpaid.* Is it possible we have forgotten the true meaning of the word volunteer?



**Wallace**  
**MSGT ERIC R. WALLACE**  
**121ST COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON**  
**COLUMBUS**

**Pilot's 'safety first' attitude saves his life, provides lesson to others**

Lt. Col. George T. Smith, 178th Fighter Wing chief of safety, asked me to write a safety article concerning a bicycle accident I had this spring. After telling him 15 different ways of no, I went ahead and wrote it up anyway...just like he knew I would.

All of us in this business spend a lot of time and training in the safety aspects of our jobs. The military beats it into us that it is “safety first, follow the checklist, no training rule busts today,” etc. Because of all this indoctrination we receive on the job some of it (fortunately), if not all of it, tends to carry over into our private lives. Had that not been the case with me, I'm convinced I wouldn't be able to write this.

In April, I took a quick bike ride through my subdivision to get about 10 miles in. I was working late that day to support a couple of (F-16 jet fighter) fly-bys we were doing for the opening day minor-league baseball games for the Dayton Dragons and the Columbus Clippers. I threw on my biking gear and helmet and off I went. Thirty minutes later I was oh so thankful that I was wearing a helmet.

I was riding on the road when a car that was heading the opposite direction turned across my path. It happened so fast that all I had time to do was grab some rear brake and attempt to lay the bike down. I never quite made it all the way down when the right front bumper of the car impacted the left side of my bike. This impact immediately put me down on the road and I slid under the front end of the car as it drove up on to the bike. The driver suddenly stopped and got out to see what in the world he hit. He was shocked and horrified that he hit me and I had to convince him to get back in the car to put it in reverse to keep me from being pinned under the vehicle. I suffered some nasty road rash, cuts and bruises, a torn rotator cuff and a sprained ankle. My bike was destroyed. I even ruined my expensive Giro Pneumo bicycle helmet...perhaps the best \$120 bucks I ever spent. You see, just after the accident I vividly remember thinking how hard my head hit the pavement. I never lost consciousness; in fact I never even had a headache! The Styrofoam shell inside the helmet absorbed all the impact and split in three places. So now I continue to get teased and ribbed about the bike, the spandex shorts and the whole race bike culture as a 200-pound fighter pilot tries to emulate a 130-pound Tour de France rider. A laughable caricature if there ever was one. And I laugh with them because I can...thanks to that goofy looking helmet.

**LTCOL JOHN M. THOMPSON**  
**162ND FIGHTER SQUADRON**  
**SPRINGFIELD**



**PFC Tronie Dotson (left), an administrative specialist with the 16th Engineer Brigade, guides Iraqi Army soldiers through correct preventive maintenance checks and services on a Humvee during a driver's training class.**

## MENTORING IN ACTION:

Deployed OHARNG Soldiers train Iraqi Army on finer points of Humvees during military driver's training

**Story and photos by  
Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Ballog  
Headquarters, 16th Engineer Brigade**

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq—Soldiers from the 6th Iraqi Army Division gained critical maintenance and maneuverability experience during driver's training classes conducted by their Shadow Program partners in Multi-National Division-Baghdad's 16th Engineer Brigade.

Nearly 80 Iraqi soldiers attended one of four three-day classes created and taught by the brigade's motor pool section, which provides them an opportunity to gain experience in maintaining and operating M-1025 and M-1026 Humvees, which will eventually be fielded to the Iraqi Army units.

The Shadow Program was an ongoing partnership between the 16th Engineer Brigade and the 6th Iraqi Army Division, designed to further train and integrate Iraqi soldiers while paving the way for future combined missions. The driver's training was one of many training events and joint projects included in the program, which commenced in July and ran through September.

"The class was a familiarization course

rather than a traditional licensing course as nearly 30 percent of the IA soldiers going through the classes had no prior driving experience in any type of vehicle," said Master Sgt. David Slusher, the brigade's maintenance operations sergeant and native of Mason, Ohio.

The training itself consisted of basic vehicle operations, such as starting the vehicle, turning on headlights, using seat belts, and conducting preventative maintenance checks and services.

The student-soldiers also received instruction in ground-guiding procedures, changing tires, towing a disabled vehicle with a tow bar and about four hours of actual driving time per soldier.

"There were a few challenges—mainly the language barrier," Slusher said. "These issues required us to make the training as hands-on as possible."

To help overcome the challenges, Sgt. Carol Phillips from the 16th, a native of Westchester, Ohio, created a video of the instructors performing each of the training tasks.

"The video was great and really helped the IA students grasp the material, and

it canceled out the language differences," Slusher said.

Instructors emphasized seat belt usage, correct ground-guiding procedures and wear of safety gear, such as gloves and eye protection, to reduce injury risk to soldiers.

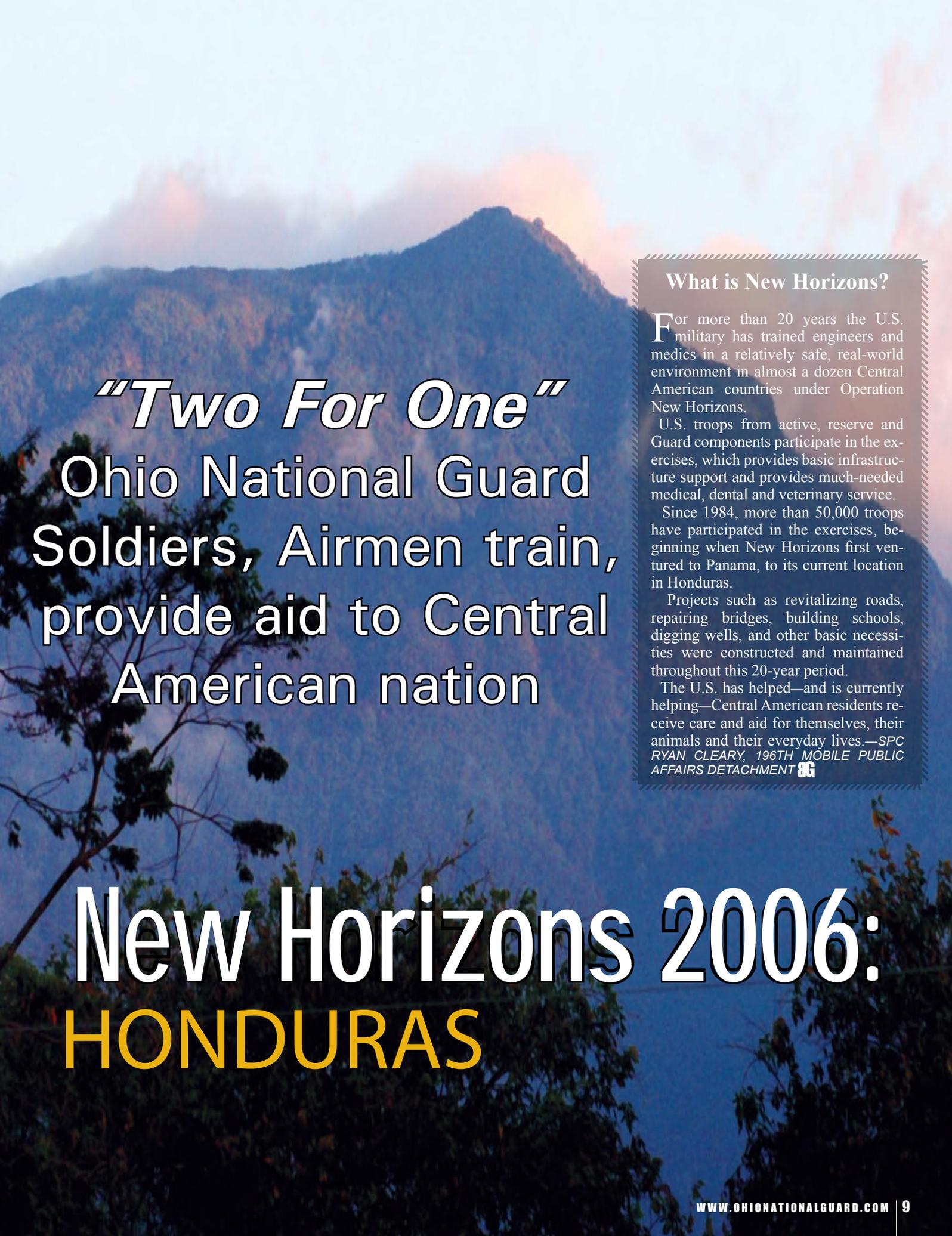
"PMCS is important also to help them realize it's better to find and correct their vehicle faults before they leave their forward operating base, as no one wants to change a flat tire in downtown Baghdad," Slusher said. "Once they understood that safety and proper maintenance keeps more soldiers in the fight, they were all for it."

The Iraqi soldiers were encouraged by the confidence and training gained during the course and look forward to receiving the Humvees in the future, said Capt. Luis Gonzales, from the 6th Division military transition team.

"Driver's training was a very critical part and the starting point of a rigorous 30-day training to prepare the Iraqi soldiers to conduct independent operations in Baghdad," he said. "Most of these IAs had never driven a car before and here we are showing them how to operate a Humvee. After completion of the training, they felt prepared to conduct their mission in an armored Humvee platform."

Several students said driver's training prepared them for success in many ways.

"This training is something new for the Iraqi Army and reflects how far our soldiers and military have come," one said. **CG**



***“Two For One”***  
**Ohio National Guard  
Soldiers, Airmen train,  
provide aid to Central  
American nation**

**What is New Horizons?**

For more than 20 years the U.S. military has trained engineers and medics in a relatively safe, real-world environment in almost a dozen Central American countries under Operation New Horizons.

U.S. troops from active, reserve and Guard components participate in the exercises, which provides basic infrastructure support and provides much-needed medical, dental and veterinary service.

Since 1984, more than 50,000 troops have participated in the exercises, beginning when New Horizons first ventured to Panama, to its current location in Honduras.

Projects such as revitalizing roads, repairing bridges, building schools, digging wells, and other basic necessities were constructed and maintained throughout this 20-year period.

The U.S. has helped—and is currently helping—Central American residents receive care and aid for themselves, their animals and their everyday lives.—SPC RYAN CLEARY, 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT 

**New Horizons 2006:**  
**HONDURAS**

# Ohio medics, doctors bring relief

Story and photos by Sgt. Benjamin Cossel, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SSG Edwin Sanchez (right), an Ohio Army National Guard medic, explains to an Aldea Orotinos, Honduras, girl the medicines he is providing her. After seeing a doctor, residents of the village were given medications for a variety of ailments.



**A**LDEA OROTINOS, Honduras—Doctors, dentists and medics from the Ohio Army National Guard set up shop at a local primary school for a Medical Readiness Training Exercise March 27 in the tiny Honduran village of Aldea Orotinos. In addition to the Ohio Guardmembers, the joint exercise included members of the U.S. Air Force and the Honduran Army.

Lt. Col. Stanley Jones, deputy commander of the medical detachment, explained the primary focus of the exercise was to give his Soldiers an opportunity to train in a joint environment and in ways not possible back in the United States.

“A lot of our medics and doctors are able to cross-train out

here,” the Chicago resident said. “Plus, the medical screening and prescribing of medications are the types of things we don’t really have an opportunity to do back home in a drilling status.”

In addition to sharpening their skills, the medical exercise provided an opportunity for U.S. servicemembers to provide much-needed medical attention to this poverty-stricken neighborhood.

“This is an exceptionally poor country,” Stanley said. “Health care only exists for the very rich, those who can afford it.”

Upon arriving at the school, Soldiers set up five stations.

“Everyone who comes in here must first go through the preventative health care station,” explained Staff Sgt. Sharon Buchanan.



Inside the makeshift clinic, doctors treated ailments ranging from infected cuts to lower back pains. For Capt. Sean Stiltner, a 61N, field surgeon, the experience reinforced the basics of medicine.

“Currently, I’m a resident at the Lucasville Family Practice,” said the Portsmouth, Ohio resident. “This has been an excellent opportunity for me. It’s really reinforcing some of the basics of medicine...you don’t get to do this type of stuff back home.”

Toledo, Ohio resident Capt. Robert Strickland agreed with Stiltner.

“Working in the operating room at Toledo Hospital, I mostly write the orders and my patients are asleep when I work on them,” he said. “This is a much more hands-on type experience.”

Once the villagers completed their medical evaluation, they were sent next door where they were given any medication the doctors prescribed. After seeing the doctor and getting necessary medicine, villagers who needed dental care went over to see Maj. Mark Beicke or Col. Michael Hablitzel—the dentists.

“We’ve seen about nine or so patients today,” Hablitzel said.

Hablitzel said he was impressed that most of the patients maintained fairly good oral hygiene.

“For as many people that have come through today, we actually haven’t pulled too many teeth,” he said.

In private practice since 1983, Hablitzel said working under the shade of a large Cyprus tree in the open air was quite different from the well-lit, sterile environments of his home office.

“It’s definitely different working out here, I would love to have a bit more light to work with,” Hablitzel said. “But it’s actually quite relaxing.”

All told, more than 180 villagers came through the school to be seen. Jones said while the turnout was smaller than normal, the positive effect was still the same.

“We come down here with a caring attitude, providing services that their government is financially unable to,” he said. “It all really helps to foster a good picture of the U.S. military.” **86**



**CPT Sean Stiltner, an Ohio Army National Guard field surgeon, examines a young girl from the Honduran village of Aldea Orotinos during a medical readiness training exercise (MEDRETE) this spring as part of Operation New Horizons.**

At the preventative health care station, Soldiers from the Honduran Army explained the benefits of washing hands often, using the toilet instead of the outdoors and drinking purified water instead of from the tap to improve basic sanitation.

Medics then gave each resident deworming medication—pinworms are rampant in the area—a bottle of vitamins for each family member, and a bar of soap.

Buchanan went on to explain, once villagers went through the preventative health care station, they’re sent to medical screening where medics determined the type of care needed. Some went to the doctor, some went to the dentist, and some went to both.

# ENGINEERS' EFFORTS PROVE ELECTRIFYING

Story and Photos by Sgt. Benjamin Cossel, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**L**A CEIBA, Honduras—Choking back tears, Ohio Army National Guardmember Sgt. Tasha Swarts cleared her throat. “So many bad things have happened to these kids in their lives,” she said. “To be able to do just one thing that can help so many...I’ve got goose bumps all over.”

Soldiers from the Ohio National Guard’s 186th Engineer Detachment were working to finish electrical wiring and fixtures at a school that will serve the 24 boys who live at the Niños de la Luz (Children of the Light) Orphanage in La Ceiba, Honduras. In addition to serving the orphans, the school, with a maximum capacity of 180 students, will also be open to the public.

## Serendipity Strikes

Swarts first encountered Niños de la Luz director, Bill Kwiatkowski, on her first full day in country. It would be almost a week and a half before she would finally make it to the compound.

“We were at Expatriates having dinner and Bill was there,” said the Lancaster, Ohio resident. “We began talking and he told us about the orphanage. I knew immediately I wanted to at least get

out there and see the kids.”

Kwiatkowski told the Soldiers his facility was mainly built on the charity of others—a missionary group from Canada built the playground and missionaries from the Mission of Hope in Michigan built the two main buildings that house the children along with a joint kitchen and dining facility.

Kwiatkowski’s story touched the Soldiers and they all walked away wanting to do something with the little bit of time they had—the 186th was serving its two-week annual training with New Horizons 2006—Honduras.

## Getting There

On the morning of April 6, New Horizons Chaplain (Capt.) John Shipman met with Warrant Officer Bruce Landeg from the 186th to make the trip to the orphanage. Shipman had heard about the orphanage through his assistant, Senior Airman Michael Meade.

“Mike’s been heavily involved with the orphanage since he got here and I wanted to support his efforts,” Shipman said.

Landeg met Shipman during a Sunday service when the orphanage came up in conversation. Landeg had been with Swarts when they met Kwiatkowski and he, too, wanted to get to the facility to offer whatever help he could.

When the opportunity finally presented itself, the three made their way to the compound. Kwiatkowski met them and offered them a tour, eventually stopping at the kitchen for lunch. As the children sat eating their meal of chicken and rice, potato salad and vegetables, Kwiatkowski introduced them to their guests.

“These kids have had a very hard life,” Kwiatkowski said. “Some have been sexually abused, others were involved with gangs or drugs. But we don’t discriminate—we take all kids, refusing to ever give up hope.”

After lunch, the tour of the facility continued. Pointing to the school house, Kwiatkowski said that while much of the work was done, much work was still needed.

“Building a school house has always been a part of our projected plan,” he said.

Kwiatkowski said, in his opinion, the local teachers were not nearly as dedicated as their American counterparts.

“A lot of the teachers just collect a paycheck and never even show up,” he said. “It’s not like American teachers where they’re passionate about teaching. My kids were regularly going to school and then just coming right back home because there was no teacher to give the class. So we decided to build our own school, try and get teachers from the states to staff it, and open it up to the kids in this area.”

Much to Kwiatkowski’s surprise, a group from Wisconsin showed up at his door step one day saying they wanted to build a school house.

“Unfortunately, they ran out of money before the project could be completed,” he said. “So, we’re now fixing things as we can. We’re still about \$16,000...short of what we need.”

One of the items left incomplete was the wiring of the fixtures in the building. An idea struck Landeg.

“You know,” Landeg said to Kwiatkowski, “we have a sergeant with us who is a master electrician (Swarts) back in her civilian job. If we could get her and some other folks out here to wire up this building, would that help?”

“That would be a blessing,” Kwiatkowski replied.



**SPC Kenneth Thompson of the Ohio Army National Guard’s 186th Engineer Detachment (Utilities) wires fixtures at the Niños de la Luz orphanage in La Ceiba, Honduras.**



SGT Natasha Swarts passes out candy to children of the Niños de la Luz orphanage in La Ceiba, Honduras.

## SOLDIERS TO THE RESCUE

The focus of New Horizons is training for engineers and medical personnel, a side benefit being the permanent structures and medical relief the U.S. servicemembers leave behind.

Prior to beginning operations, five project sites were chosen. Working at the orphanage was never a part of the original plan, so before they could get to work, they needed approval from the task force commander, Air Force Maj. Toney Riley.

According to Landeg, Riley didn't have a problem with the engineers volunteering at the orphanage, but transportation and security were a concern.

"Bill (Kwiatkowski) agreed to pick up and drop off as many personnel as we could provide and Major Riley agreed that with the compound being gated and so close to the base, extra force protection wasn't needed," he said.

Pulling up to the base in a bright red pick-up truck at 8 a.m. on April 11, Kwiatkowski took the four Soldiers to the orphanage to begin work. More than a week and a half of waiting was finally over for Swarts.

"I'm glad to finally get out here. There's a lot to do and I know

with the expertise we have we'll be able to do a lot of good work in the little bit of time that we have left," Swarts said.

Columbus, Ohio resident Spc. Kenneth Thompson agreed.

"There's a lot of hard work to be done but this has been the best experience out of anything I've done here so far," he said.

With only four days left in the rotation, the four Soldiers worked feverishly to get as much done as possible, but Swarts wouldn't compromise safety for speed.

"We're making sure that everything is properly grounded and marked...just taking the extra time to make sure everything is as safe as possible," said Swarts, who has more than eight years experience as a journeyman (master) electrician with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 212.

Swarts said she hoped future rotations would continue their work. But no matter

what, for the Soldiers of the 186th who ran wires, attached fans and secured service entry points, the work they did will stay with them forever.

"To know that every time one of these kids turns on a light in their classroom...that's something we did," Thompson said. "They may never know who we are, but every time the lights come on, that's our work. This is something I'll never forget, to be able to work on something that people will appreciate, that just makes you feel good." **86**

---

**"I know with the expertise we have we'll be able to do a lot of good work in the little bit of time that we have left."**

*—Sgt. Tasha Swarts  
186th Engineering Detachment*

---



SrA Sena Johnson (left) and TSgt Todd Marshall of the 178th Readiness Logistics Squadron, Springfield, cover bags of cement used at construction sites during Operation New Horizons, which was conducted this spring in Honduras.

# Marshalling the Yard

Story and photo by Spc. Ryan Cleary, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**H**ECTOR C. MONCADO AIR BASE, Honduras—On the far reaches of base April 4, Airmen from the Springfield-based 178th Fighter Wing prepared the marshalling yard for their latest shipment.

Meals, Ready-to-Eat, Unit Ground Rations, bottled water and cement blocks for local construction sites were shipped to the marshalling yard for inventory, stocking and distribution.

“Anything that’s shipped comes through us,” said Senior Airman Sena Johnson of the 178th.

The yard is a flat concrete slab located about three-quarters of a mile from tent city on the base’s main road. The yard is constantly changing in size and layout because each shipment has room to arrive within a wide time period.

“The 178th, in collaboration with the 179th from Mansfield, Ohio, the 180th from Toledo, Ohio, and 269th, also from Springfield, are all logistics readiness squadrons that handle everything that is consumable and used for building,” Tech. Sgt. Todd Marshall of the 178th said.

“It’s sporadic—some things coming in every week, other things taking months. The MREs, UGRs, water and blocks are the regular,” said Master Sgt. Tim Deady, a 178th FW member.

The unit has downtime, but the operation receives shipments all the time, so they’re always on the ready, Marshall said.

“In the beginning, almost every shipment was block,” Johnson said.

The blocks, which were used for construction, come in pallets of 550 units and were used during Operation New Horizons to build four schools and one clinic for local Hondurans in the vicinity of La Ceiba, one of Honduras’ largest cities.

“Our main mission is making sure the right stuff goes to the

right people,” Deady said. “We keep the counts and inventory so we know how much is in there. That allows us to gauge how much is needed for the next order. Our biggest function is making sure everyone has what they need.”

“Anytime, day or night, they’d be more than willing to support us,” said Tech. Sgt. Timothy Benning, a member of the 940th Air Refueling Wing and superintendent of services on base.

The largest problem the 178th faced to that point was not the shipments or the orders, but the scorpions residing in the cement block-piles stacked in the yard. Almost every time they moved a block, they found some sort of insect or creature, making their job a little more difficult.

Not all was bad for the 178th though. This was the first time many of them had worked on a joint task force with Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen.

“This is the first time in 28 years that I’ve worked with all four services,” said Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Shetter, a 178th FW member. “It’s the best part of my trip.”

“It’s great to work with all the branches. This is my first deployment, and I’ve met a lot of cool people and made many good friends while being down here,” Johnson said.

Johnson had been here since day one and left several weeks later with the rest of the 178th to return home to Springfield. She was on the first rotation of Operation New Horizons, and had seen and experienced the operation from the beginning.

“Meeting people out of my base and getting to know people from other branches have been my favorite parts,” Johnson said. “This has been my summer vacation.”

“They’re wonderful people, and I’m very sad to see them go. They were without a doubt my right hand,” Benning said. **EG**

# MAKING HOME BASE MORE “HOMIEY”

Story and photo by  
Sgt. Benjamin Cossel,  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

**H**ECTOR C. MONCADO AIR BASE, Honduras—If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. If it is broke, or maybe needs built, call the Soldiers of the Ohio Army National Guard’s 186th Engineer Detachment (Utilities), stationed at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus.

Plumbers, electricians and carpenters from the 186th used their expertise to help improve the quality of life of the Airmen, Sailors, Soldiers and Marines currently stationed on Asegurar El Futuro Air Force Base, Honduras, in support of Operation New Horizons.

Four rotations of 186th Soldiers serviced the base during the unit’s final annual training exercise. As part of the Army’s overall force restructuring, the 186th was scheduled to be deactivated in August.

“Basically, we’re responsible for base maintenance,” said Staff Sgt. Steve Ahrens. “Everything at the base, from an engineering perspective, is our responsibility.”

The midday sun beats down on the already reddened neck of Spc. Glen Litchfield, as he crouches over a two-by-four, power saw in hand. Ahrens stands at the end of the board providing stability as Litchfield drives the saw, chewing away at the wood until a piece, cut at a 45-degree angle, falls off the end. One down, three to go and the sign Litchfield is working on for base safety services will be complete.

“We do small carpentry projects; build signs, desks and shelves for the sections on the base,” Litchfield said.

While carpentry was one of the services provided by the 186th, Ahrens said the unit’s big project was plumbing.

“The main project we’ve been working on since we got here is the field showers,” said Ahrens, the plumbing section squad leader. “When we first got here, the showers were flooding everyday.”



**SGT Natasha Bristol of the Ohio Army National Guard’s 186th Engineer Detachment (Utilities), Columbus, delivers a new shelf after she and other Soldiers completed its construction.**

A group of Soldiers tore down the existing facilities, laid a foundation to properly drain runoff, and reassembled the system with the improved drainage capabilities.

“We just completed the women’s shower Friday and we’ll finish one of the men’s showers today,” he said. “As soon as that one’s done, we’ll fix the other men’s shower.”

In addition to fixing the showers, the detachment was also responsible for small electrical projects around the base. During their stay, unit electricians rewired faulty outlets, established new outlets and ran power to all tents that housed servicemembers.

Improving quality of life for Soldiers here was just part of the 186th’s mission during the unit’s three-week stay. The unit was also

making permanent base improvements.

“One of the first projects we did when we got here was to put in a new sidewalk,” Ahrens said. “Before we leave, we’re going to fix the backboards on the Hondurans’ basketball court and put up some new rims.”

For Ahrens and the Soldiers of the 186th, all of their work comes down to the same thing; improving the quality of life on the camp for all servicemembers.

“It’s all quality of life,” Ahrens said. “Soldiers working out at their construction sites all day in the hot sun—to be able to come home from the job site with the AC working in their tents, hot water in the showers, and be able to watch a movie and relax a little—that’s why we do what we do.” **86**

# Ohio Air units show versatility on AEF



**PHOTO**  
**SSGT DOUGLAS**

121ST AIR REFUELING  
MULTIMEDIA



**T**hese photographs were taken by Staff Sgt. Douglas Nicodemus, who participated in a U.S. Air Force Air Expeditionary Forces (AEF) cycle earlier this year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Nicodemus was deployed as part of the Communications Flight of the 40th Air Expeditionary Group, which was supporting operations in Afghanistan from a remote location. Nicodemus worked at the help desk as a multimedia specialist—primarily as a photographer. Air National Guard units from all over the United States were integrated with deployed active-duty Air Force units and Airmen from a number of bases participating individually to fill positions and complete missions. These are some of the photos of Airmen from the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, and 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, at work.



**BACKGROUND:** A KC-135 Stratotanker refueling aircraft takes off on a mission supporting operations in Afghanistan. Members of the 121st Air Refueling Wing deployed to this location in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as parts of AEF 9 and 10.

**OPPOSITE PAGE, LEFT:** SrA Kevin Gordon, a member of the 121st ARW Civil Engineering Flight, works to make improvements to the facilities in his deployed location.

**OPPOSITE PAGE, RIGHT:**

SSgt Philip Murray (right) guides SrA Andrew Harrison as he moves a gravel base into place as the foundation of a chapel entrance boardwalk.

**THIS PAGE, LEFT:** As SrA Ricardo Guzman (right) looks on, fellow 121st Air Refueling Wing Security Forces officer SrA Keith Taylor (center), escorts a civilian who “broke red,” played by SrA Robert W. Reagan of the 180th Fighter Wing SFS, for trespassing into an unauthorized area as part of a training exercise. **THIS PAGE, RIGHT:** CMSgt Ron Gooch, meets with Mission Support staff to discuss progress on various engineering projects. Gooch retired from the Ohio Air National Guard last August.

**PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
STAFF SGT. DOUGLAS NICODEMUS**

**121ST AIR REFUELING WING  
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**





# Honoring our Ohio National Guard Heroes



CHAPLAIN (LTC) ELMER HEINDL 1910-2006



OHIO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

Chaplain Elmer Heindl presides over mass for 148th Infantry Soldiers in 1944 on Bougainville in the Solomon Islands during World War II. Heindl was described by the men he served with as a “fighting Soldier’s chaplain.”

## DECORATED 37TH INFANTRY DIVISION WORLD WAR II CHAPLAIN DIES AT AGE 96

By Staff Sgt. Joshua Mann  
Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio

The Rev. Elmer Heindl, one of the most highly-decorated chaplains in World War II, died July 17 in Rochester, N.Y. He was 96.

Heindl was the chaplain for the 2nd Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, 37th Infantry Division during the war and was described by many of the men as the “fighting Soldier’s chaplain.”

The 148th Infantry was an Ohio National Guard organization in Northwest Ohio prior to being inducted into federal service in 1940. He also served for a short period as a chaplain in the 145th Infantry Regiment.

Heindl, a Rochester native and Roman Catholic priest who enlisted in the Army as a chaplain in 1942, was awarded a Silver Star and a Bronze Star for ministering to war wounded while under Japanese fire in both the Philippines and the Solomon Islands.

He later received a Distinguished Service Cross, the nation’s second-highest combat decoration, for his “extraordinary heroism in action” under heavy machine-gun fire during street fighting in Manila in 1945.

According to newspaper accounts that year, Heindl entered a prison watchtower under Japanese fire to offer prayers for a dying Soldier, then took the body out.

He returned to the tower to carry a wounded man to safety.

Two days later, Heindl crawled through enemy rocket and mortar fire to drag a wounded officer to an aid station and also carried other casualties to safety and administered last rites to the dying.

“I went down there to do my duty as a chaplain,” Heindl said in 1987. “Whatever happened was none of my doing whatsoever.... I never carried a gun. I never felt the need for any kind of violence.”

After the war, he returned to New York and served in several parishes in the Rochester area. He retired after 28 years of military service as a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve.

He continued to serve Ohio veterans as chaplain for both the 148th Infantry Veterans Association and 37th Division Veterans Association and

made the annual drive to Camp Perry, Ohio, for reunions even into his 90s. **OG**



Heindl

IN MEMORIAM

# SPECIAL FORCES SOLDIERS REFLECT ON FALLEN COMRADE

By Staff Sgt. Kimberly Snow  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**G**REEN, Ohio—In the early evening of June 16, a group of about a dozen Soldiers from B Company, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, immaculately clad in full military dress uniform, nestled together in a small basement room of the Schermesser Funeral Home.

Above them, hundreds of well-wishers waited their turn to honor the memory of their friend and brother-in-arms, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel B. Crabtree, recently killed in combat. Occasionally, one of the men would slip out temporarily to mingle with the guests.

The somber quiet was occasionally punctured by a laugh, which was inevitably followed by a story—like the time their friend broke his leg on his first jump with the elite troops after successfully completing the Army's Special Forces Qualification Course.

Their friend and comrade had landed badly on the jump. As he lay on the ground with a broken leg, one unit member, Sgt. 1st Class Don (due to the sensitive nature of special operations, first names only will be noted), noticed that something was wrong with his friend and was temporarily distracted.

"I rode my ruck in, trying to see what was wrong with him," Don said with a laugh. "I landed pretty hard and when I got to him, he was laughing at me. He was still laughing and smiling while grimacing in pain."

They also remembered the Special Forces weapons sergeant for his patience and kindness.

"You want to know what Dan was like?" Sgt. 1st Class Kevin, a fellow unit member, asked.

Kevin recounted an e-mail—one of many such e-mails and phone calls he had received in the preceding days—from a young Soldier who had trained with the Special Forces unit, but ultimately didn't make it to the qualification course. As a trainee, the Soldier had always looked up to the "tabbed" (Special Forces-qualified) Soldiers, particularly Crabtree.

"He always stopped and took the time to talk to me, even though I wasn't tabbed. He answered my questions no matter how stupid they were," the young Soldier wrote. "That was Dan. He was what being a Special Forces Soldier is all about."

Crabtree died June 8, when a roadside bomb exploded next to his vehicle during a patrol near Al Kut, in east-central Iraq.

"He was on his way to a meeting. He was trying to help a village threatened by

SFC DANIEL CRABTREE, 1974-2006



COURTESY PHOTO

**Daniel Crabtree was using his knowledge and training as a civilian police officer to help train Iraqi policemen.**

the insurgency, trying to help them secure themselves to reduce the threat," Don said. "He died doing what he liked to do."

The 31-year-old weapons sergeant had been as determined to make a difference in Iraq as he had always been in meeting his personal goals. One Soldier recalled Crabtree's training regimen when he was preparing himself for the rigors of the Special Forces Qualification Course. At the time, he was working night shifts.

"He would train when he got off work in the morning, when he was already tired," he said shaking his head. "He would strap a 70-pound ruck to his back and just start running."

Crabtree had a passion for weapons that carried over to his civilian job, where he worked as a sniper for the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team. He was also a member of the force's honor guard.

"He was really good at teaching weapons," Don said. "He took the time to study all kinds of different weapons systems."

With a knack for teaching, along with his civilian police training, Crabtree was particularly well-suited for his mission in Iraq, where he developed and implemented a SWAT training program for the Iraqi police force in Al Kut. As the lead trainer,

he instructed the SWAT volunteers in advanced marksmanship, offensive and defensive driving techniques and urban assault tactics. He had also previously helped train other foreign troops.

"They always liked him because he was patient. He always took the time to explain things," Don said.

Crabtree and his operational detachment also assisted the Al-Kut SWAT team in more than 35 combat missions which netted more than 100 known insurgents.

"The Al-Kut SWAT was one of the most effective Iraqi units. They were feared by the insurgency because they were so effective," Don said. "And that was due, in large part, to his training."

Crabtree joined the Army Reserve in 1992 and trans-

ferred to the Ohio Army National Guard in 1993 as an administrative specialist. He later retrained as a military policeman and joined the 19th Special Forces Group in March 2002. He earned the coveted green beret after graduating from the Special Forces Qualification Course at Fort Bragg, N.C., in May 2004.

He was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and attached to the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Arabian Peninsula.

His awards and decorations include the Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Parachutist Badge and Special Forces Tab. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal and Combat Infantryman Badge.

Crabtree's military education includes the Basic Airborne Course, Primary Leadership Development Course and Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course.

He is survived by his wife, Kathy, and daughter, Mallory, of Green. He is also survived by his father, Ronald Crabtree, and mother, Judy Ann Crabtree. **SG**

# A NEW BEGINNING



SGT BENJAMIN COSSEL / 196TH MPAD

**MG Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general (center, right), escorts Serbian President Boris Tadić past a joint Honor Guard and Color Guard during a Sept. 8 visit. Tadić and his Serbian delegation met with Wayt, Ohio Gov. Bob Taft and other Ohio leaders to discuss the planned partnership between Serbia and the Ohio National Guard through the National Guard State Partnership Program.**

## REPUBLIC OF SERBIA PARTNERSHIP WITH OHIO NATIONAL GUARD TO BE A FORCE FOR REGIONAL STABILITY, DEVELOP RESERVE FORCES

**Story by Sgt. Benjamin Cossel  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

**W**hen pro-democracy forces compelled former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to relinquish power in October 2000, the seeds for a shared form of government slowly began to take root in the country. In the wake of devastation wrought by years of regional conflict, vital infrastructure was destroyed and those left behind began the monumental task of putting a politically and economically fragile country back together.

Some six years later, Serbia is looking to the future with the help of the Ohio National Guard.

On Sept. 8, one day after signing a Status of Forces Agreement with the U.S. government, Serbian President Boris Tadić visited Ohio to discuss a planned partnership through the National Guard State Partnership Program.

The partnership program was established in 1993, following the collapse of communism and the disintegration of the Soviet Union, when National Guard leaders recognized a unique opportunity to contribute to peace and stability in the emerging democratic nations. Since its inception, National Guards from 42 states, two territories and the District of Columbia have participated in the program, partnering with countries worldwide.

The Ohio National Guard has partnered with Hungary, Serbia's neighbor to the north, since 1993. What began as a military-to-military exchange has evolved into a much broader program. "The military ties are important," said Capt. Matt Zelnik, a member of the Ohio Air

National Guard who serves as Ohio's primary administrative liaison for the State Partnership Program. "It is not just the training, discipline and organizational/structural efficiencies that we bring to the table, but the example we set by our values of selfless service, teamwork and respect for civilian control of the military is a critical part of our contribution to the relationship."

The broadening of the Hungary-Ohio partnership includes civilian-to-civilian contacts, including a recent education exchange hosted by the Ohio Department of Education and facilitated by the Ohio National Guard's State Partnership Program.

"It is a new page of our history in the relations between two states," Tadić said. "We are going to open a new door, new opportunities in all kinds of cooperation."

Ohio was chosen to sponsor Serbia due to its population of nearly 200,000 people with Serbian ethnicity, concentrated in the northern region of the state. Ohio has also been partnered with Hungary, Serbia's neighbor to the north, since 1993, also because of its large population of citizens with Hungarian ethnicity.

Through the program, members of the Ohio National Guard will travel to Serbia, where they will help military leaders establish a reserve military force that functions much like the U.S. National Guard—helping in domestic emergencies and disaster relief and serving as augmentees to the active-duty forces.

Once the initial military aspects of the agreement are under way, the program shifts into a "citizen" training role. Program administrators then begin to focus on education, economic development, small



COURTESY GRAPHIC



SGT BENJAMIN COSSEL / 196TH MPAD

**ABOVE, LEFT:** The Republic of Serbia is located in Eastern Europe, to the south of Hungary, the Ohio National Guard's first partner country in the NGB State Partnership Program. **ABOVE:** Serbian President Boris Tadić addresses media and attendees at a public ceremony to announce the Ohio National Guard-Serbian partnership in September.

business administration and other aspects affecting the country's citizen-soldiers, including how to balance military life with civilian careers.

Following a brief ceremony to announce the planned partnership, Tadić spent the day with senior Ohio leadership, including Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, discussing concerns including force structure and disaster response.

Tadić expressed keen interest in the National Guard's response to Hurricane Katrina, an unprecedented deployment of troops in terms of time and manpower. He said he envisioned his reserve forces serving in similar situations.

Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief, National Guard Bureau, explained how events on the devastated Gulf Coast came together, the interstate mutual assistance agreements and the teleconference that set the wheels in motion.

"Many federal organizations have been criticized in their response to Hurricane Katrina," Blum said.

"But the National Guard is one of the organizations that received no complaints as to how we responded. Everybody remembers New Orleans, but the National Guard was in Texas, Mississippi and Alabama as well."

Wayt noted it was Ohio National Guardmembers who were initially airlifted into the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans to assist in its evacuation.

Tadić was also introduced to the Ohio National Guard's senior noncommissioned officers, State Command Sgt. Maj. William Gilliam (Army) and State Chief Master Sergeant Christopher Muncy (Air).

"These are my two senior NCOs in the state," Wayt said. "They are my right hands on the Air and Army side."

Wayt traveled to Serbia later in September and met with Maj. Gen. Zdravko Ponoš, acting chief of the Serbian Armed Forces General Staff, to begin planning the initiatives that will be the focus of the developing partnership. Muncy and Gilliam accompanied Wayt to provide assistance in beginning efforts to develop the NCO corps in the Serbian military. **SG**



PHOTO COURTESY OF SERBIAN ARMED FORCES

**On a visit to Serbia by Ohio National Guard leadership, the Serbian Armed Forces Elite Special Brigade passes in review of (from right) Maj. Gen. Dragan Kolundzija, head of operational forces command; Maj. Gen. Zdravko Ponoš, acting chief, Serbian Armed Forces General Staff; Mr. Zoran Stankovic, minister of defense; Serbian President Boris Tadić; and Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general.**

# 52nd CST (WMD)

## Ready at a moment's notice:

*Civil Support Team (WMD) trains to handle variety of real-world situations*

Story by Staff Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.  
and Spc. Chad Menegay  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP PENDLETON, Va.—Twenty-two Ohio National Guardmembers rolled into Virginia Beach, Va., May 1 in navy blue Chevy Silverado 4x4 trucks wearing “Blues Brothers” style sunglasses on a mission from DoD (Department of Defense), Homeland Security.

The 52nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) arrived to participate in two training scenarios at Camp Pendleton, Va., the Virginia National Guard’s state training reservation.

Awaiting them was a scenario of chemical dispersion devices, improvised explosive devices, and a time-delayed surprise. Before their trip would end, one survey team member would be rendered “unconscious” and another would “suffer a broken leg.”

The scenarios—designed by the Center for National Response (CNR), based in Gallagher, W.Va., were intended to test the 52nd’s readiness in response to two very different crisis situations.

“We wrote the scenarios, provided the props and facilitated the event,” said Scott Brooks, a CNR training specialist.

The CNR is a national agency specializing in counterterrorism consequence management for civil support teams across the country. The CNR usually provides personnel to act as observers and controllers for the training events, but this time members from Virginia’s 34th CST (WMD) were filling those roles.

The scenarios help the teams sustain and improve team readiness, Brooks said. By conducting joint training, CSTs from different states have



SSG BOB BARKO JR / 196TH MPAD

**The 52nd Civil Support Team’s SGT Dustin Hartman (left) inspects chemical detection equipment as CPT Christopher Bricker looks on.**

the chance to see how other teams approach their jobs.

“It’s a real learning experience for each team,” he said.

The mock exercise officially began at 5:20 a.m. May 2, when the 52nd was notified of a suspected terrorist incident at Camp Pendleton, Va. They responded and immediately began coordinating with the incident commander (IC), the local fire department, emergency management services, the police department and the explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team.

The scenario involved the discovery of two bombs attached to chemical agent tanks in a building on the installation firing range. While the CST was notified of the suspected terrorist event, the mock bombs were disarmed by the EOD team.

The incident commander directed the 52nd to take photos of the scene, identify the hazards, take and analyze samples and, if possible, allay the situation.

After an advance team established a safe area, the rest of the team sprung into action, setting up a decontamination line and medical area, command, operations, survey and communications areas and a mobile analytical laboratory system (ALS).

According to CST standard procedures, the team must be ready to send a survey

team into the contaminated area, or “hot zone,” within 90 minutes of notification. This time, the three-man team climbed aboard a small all-terrain vehicle known as a “Gator” and was on their way in 72 minutes.

As the scenario continued, the three-man survey team entered the target building and took readings and photographs, then called their findings in to their operating base. After completing the survey, they climbed back aboard the Gator and returned to the safe zone where they decontaminated and rejoined the rest of their team.

After analyzing initial readings, they determined the need to collect samples of the chemical agent located in the building. Within a short period of time, another three-man survey team climbed aboard the Gator and moved swiftly into the hot zone.

Although survey team members are trained to recover samples in a hot zone, the CNR training specialists decided to test the team’s readiness in dealing with a situation above and beyond taking samples for analysis.

As the second three-man team exited the building, a mock explosion “injured” two team members. Within moments, the CST dispatched a backup survey team and aided

## AT A GLANCE: 52ND CST (WMD)

PHOTOS BY SPC CHAD MENEGAY  
196TH MPAD

in recovering the downed team members. As the scenario continued, the injured team members were decontaminated and treated, and the recovered samples were decontaminated and sent to the analytical laboratory system to be analyzed.

When the results came back and the CST informed the incident commander of the presence of a nerve agent, evaluators determined the 52nd met all of their objectives and ended the exercise.

The 52nd returned to Camp Pendleton May 4 for a new and very different scenario. The new scenario involved a radiological bomb detonating on the installation's softball field with at least two civilian casualties.

After receiving mission objectives from the local IC, the CST again established a safe zone and set up a base of operations. After setup, the survey team journeyed into the hot zone to take readings and determine a course of action.

Evaluators added a few curveballs to the event by simulating a chemical agent attack, forcing everyone in the safe zone to don their protective masks and test for chemical agents. They also tasked the decontamination team with decontaminating an EOD team member who emerged from the hot zone after defusing two additional bombs discovered on site.

After responding to the attack and decontaminating the EOD team member, a survey team returned to the hot zone to collect samples from the blast area for analysis. The team also took samples from a chemical tank they found attached to one of two additional devices that were defused by the EOD. They secured the remains of the exploded bomb and the two other defused devices for later disposal.

The CST again met with the local IC and reported its findings. They included the possible effects of the bomb blast on the surrounding communities, recommendations on companies to clean up the blast area, and a medical briefing on the possible effects of radiation.

Soon after, the IC released the CST. After tearing down the base of operations, the team gathered for an after action review.

"The CNR and Virginia's 34th (CST) had nothing but good things to say about us," said Lt. Col. Chip Tansill, then-commander of the 52nd. "They were very impressed with how we do things."

Tansill said he was pleased with the feedback, but there is always room for improvement and team members are constantly learning and updating techniques to best accomplish their missions.

As the only full-time, federally funded, state National Guard unit in Ohio, the 52nd CST (WMD) executes at least one full-week exercise like this per month. All team members complete more than 850 hours of hazardous materials training through agencies including the National Fire Academy, Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The 52nd CST, established in 2000, is one of 55 such units across the United States. The Civil Support Teams were created to respond rapidly and assist local agencies in identifying the nature and extent of a possible terrorist attack or event. They also provide expert advice on WMD operations and support the state and federal military response teams. **OG**

SSG BOB BARKO JR /  
196TH MPAD



LEFT: SFC Timothy Stichler uses a 256M Chemical Detection Kit to test his surroundings for suspected hazardous airborne agents during a mock gas attack in a scenario at Camp Pendleton, Va.

## Evaluation showcases special Ohio National Guard unit's proficiency

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Benjamin Cossel  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**C**HILICOTHE—Soldiers and Airmen of the Columbus-based 52nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) passed a mandatory evaluation during a June 7 training exercise in Chillicothe.

The 22-member combined services team is required by federal law to be evaluated and recertified by the Civil Support Readiness Directorate (CSRSD), 5th Army, every 18 to 24 months.

“To make things as real as possible, the teams don’t know when the call is going to come in,” exercise specialist Dave Alderfer said. “They’re of course aware when they’re in their 18-to-24 month window, but the call could come at any time.”

At 9 a.m. sharp the Ross County Emergency Management Agency announced that a suspicious trailer was found at Great Seal Park. Residents had heard some disturbing words from the occupants of the trailer such as “The Jihad must succeed” and notified Park Services. Up the chain the information went until stopping at the 52nd.

Everything in the evaluation is timed; once the call is received, the team has 90 minutes to be on scene. Upon arrival, they have another 90 minutes to have their equipment set up and be on their way to the suspected area.

Working their way to the trailer, the team faced its first obstacle. The large chemical suits and air tanks the Members carried would be difficult to get through the narrow trailer door. After successfully getting through the door, the team began

their evaluation of the trailer. But something was wrong; they weren’t finding anything.

“What the team will find in the trailer is essentially a bust,” Alderfer said. “But if they conduct their examination of the area thoroughly, they will find information that will lead them to where the real issue is.”

Lt. Col. Paul McAllister is the deputy operations officer (J3) for the Ohio Army National Guard, Joint Force Headquarters. In order for members of CSRSD to provide a more realistic evaluation, coordination between the CSRSD and state officials had to occur.

Enter McAllister.

“We worked with many different state agencies to bring this together,” McAllister said.

To make the scenario as real as possible, McAllister coordinated with Dave Bethel of the Ross County Emergency Management Agency; Mike Borland, Great Seal Park Officer with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources; and retired Col. Douglas Moorman, director of Veterans Affairs with the Chillicothe VA Hospital. All played roles in the scenario. With all the coordination, McAllister now had two plans to present to the CSRSD.

“When I proposed the two different scenarios to the CSRSD, they liked them both so much they decided to combine them,” McAllister said. “This will be the first time a CST team has had to go to two different locations as part of



SGT Dustin Hartman tests a pool of standing water for chemical or biological reaction.



The driving rain pelts SGT Doug Melvin as he sets up a generator during a training exercise.

their evaluation.”

While the team didn’t find all the clues left in the trailer by the evaluators, the members found enough to determine the other location and prepared to move.

About five miles west of Great Seal Park is a sprawling 1,000-acre compound that is the Chillicothe Veterans Affairs Hospital.

“The VA Hospital provided a perfect location,” McAllister said. “They normally rent out buildings for other commercial-type uses, so it made sense that this fake organization would rent the location and set up a bomb factory in it.”

The clock began ticking for the team as soon as the last vehicle crossed into the decontaminated “footprint.” Soldiers and Airmen jumped from their vehicles and began setting up decontamination stations, medical stations, analysis labs and communications arrays, but Mother Nature would prove no ally this day.

As the team moved systematically about placing their equipment, a slow rain picked up steam until a full downpour slowed their progress. Eventually, lightning strikes caused them to pause the exercise as the team and evaluators waited it out. About an hour later, with the storm passed, the clock started again.

By midnight, the evaluation ended. The team had successfully detected a Sarin gas production lab and a bomb in the building. **86**

# 10,800 and more

Story by  
Diane Farrow  
OHARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion



'Griffin 6' was the call sign for LTC Jerry Rees during his tenure as commander of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion. Mythical creatures, Griffins are portrayed with a lion's body and an eagle's head, symbolizing strength and vigilance.

*"Our recruiters will continue to push for further enlistment—not for more records or accolades—but because of READINESS. Their efforts will shape the quality of our force in the future."*

—Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic  
assistant adjutant general, Army

To say the achievements of the Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Command were unprecedented in fiscal year 2006 may be an understatement.

*It met the National Guard Bureau end strength mission of 10,525 six months ahead of schedule, then met a self-imposed goal of 10,800 by the end of August, closing out the fiscal year at 10,844.*

*It exceeded its production mission for the first time in 10 years, assessing 2,237 Soldiers and surpassing a goal of 2,100.*

*It placed Ohio No. 2 nationally in strength readiness, second only to Guam, and No. 1 among large states. Ohio was ranked 46th in 1996.*

So how did Ohio accomplish so much in the last year? According to Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, assistant adjutant general for Army, the Recruiting Command's success was



Eight Ohio Army National Guard senior noncommissioned officers from the Recruiting and Retention Battalion proudly wear their new rank of first sergeant. Pictured are Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic (from left), Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army; 1SG Tonya Curry; 1SG Robert Florek; 1SG Douglas Reed; 1SG Jerry Coleman; 1SG Scott Hutt; 1SG Donald Lawrence; SGM Michael Belcher; 1SG Sgt. James Robbins; and 1SG Jeff Collingsworth.

CPT DAMON HALL / RECRUITING AND RETENTION BATTALION

due largely to the vision of its commander, Lt. Col. Jerry L. Rees, and the contributions of the team he put together.

“Lieutenant Colonel Rees has built a world-class organization predicated on NCO leadership, clearly established expectations and accountability,” Kambic said. “The result was the greatest accession year in our history.”

“My priority coming into this command was enlisted accessions,” Rees said. “In order to keep my eye on the goal, I had to ensure that expertise and excellence was evident throughout the ranks.” With this in mind, he began to restructure the command into what Kambic describes as “a radical departure from the organization he inherited.”

## The Restructure

“The intent of our restructure was to solidify a legacy force dominated by the NCO corps, with officers in a support role,” said Rees, who began identifying the command as a battalion and fortified the staffing as such.

Focusing on the accessions branch, he divided the state into three regions, assigning to each a sergeant major to provide oversight to three subordinate areas. The nine areas were relegated to nine NCOICs—E-8s who were recently promoted to first sergeants. Under the NCOICs, 22 Team Leaders were established to directly supervise the day-to-day activity of four to seven RRNCOs (Recruiting and Retention NCOs).

“My background is in infantry,” Rees explained, “so I believe in squad-level tactics. These 22 ‘fire teams’ are the center of gravity for the command. We win or lose the accessions fight at this level.”

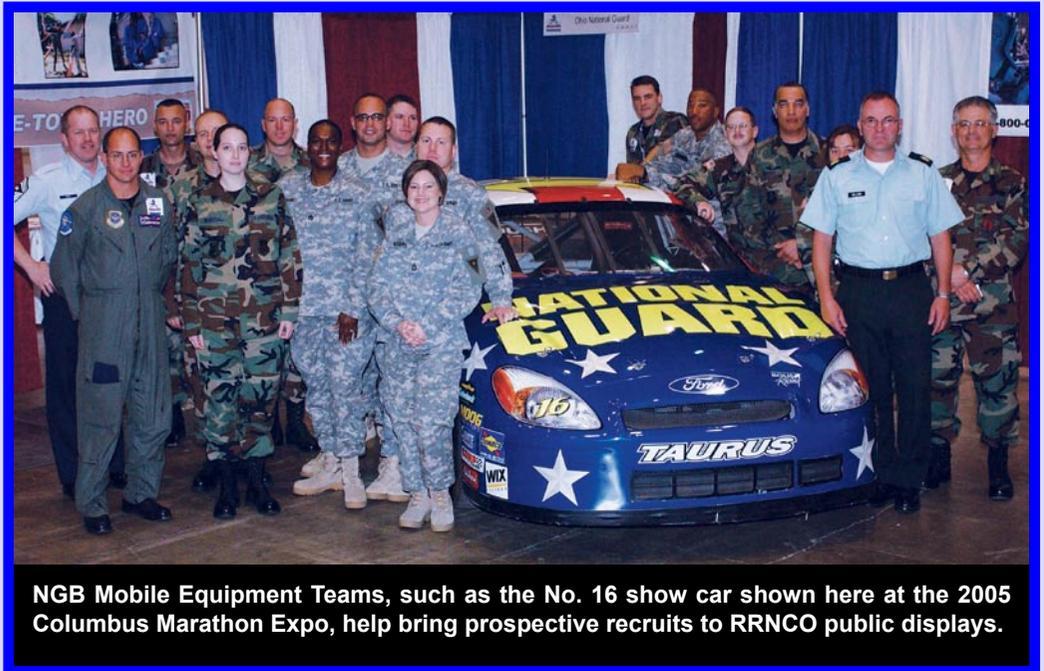
Staff offices were also strengthened, with officers and enlisted staffing to support every aspect of the battalion, including administration, supply, marketing and automation. A dedicated budget analyst was assigned and each area NCOIC was provided an operations support specialist—civilian contractors—many of whom were retired recruiters. The “ROC” or Recruiting Operations Center, is the heart of the battalion, tracking every recruit to ensure a successful contract and shipment to basic training.

“You won’t see this TDA (table of distribution and allowances) in any regulation,” Rees said with a grin. “My job was to ensure production recruiters are fully resourced to succeed in their missions, and this force structure does just that.”

In addition to building a support structure conducive to securing solid contracts, Rees saw the need to enhance programming intended to keep new enlistees engaged with the National Guard up until the time they are trained to fill a position in their assigned unit.

## Recruit Sustainment Program

Early in federal fiscal year 2006, the Recruiting Command took sole ownership of the Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP), where new recruits report for unit training assemblies before they attend any formal Soldier training. Previously, this program was



**NGB Mobile Equipment Teams, such as the No. 16 show car shown here at the 2005 Columbus Marathon Expo, help bring prospective recruits to RRNCO public displays.**

COURTESY PHOTO

a coordinated effort between the recruiters and field units.

“Enlistees are now assigned to the Recruiting Command, and it is the recruiter’s responsibility to maintain contact with the recruit from the time they enlist until they are fully qualified for their unit of assignment,” said 1st Sgt. James Robbins, NCOIC for the Dayton Area. “As Lieutenant Colonel Rees says to all the RRNCOs, ‘you’re their daddy’ until they’re handed over to the unit.”

Again mirroring the battalion structure, Rees set up the RSP so that each RRNCO is the squad leader to their recruits, Team Leaders serve as platoon sergeants, and each NCOIC is the first sergeant for the entire company. This, in part, dictated the promotion of the NCOICs from master sergeants to first sergeants. The Aug. 22 promotion ceremony marked the first time in Recruiting Command history that any NCO has held this position.

“It now makes perfect sense to have first sergeants in the Recruiting Command,” said 1st Sgt. Scott Hutt, Canton Area NCOIC. “The RSP Company structure has given all of the NCOs a chance to get back to leading, soldiering and training.”

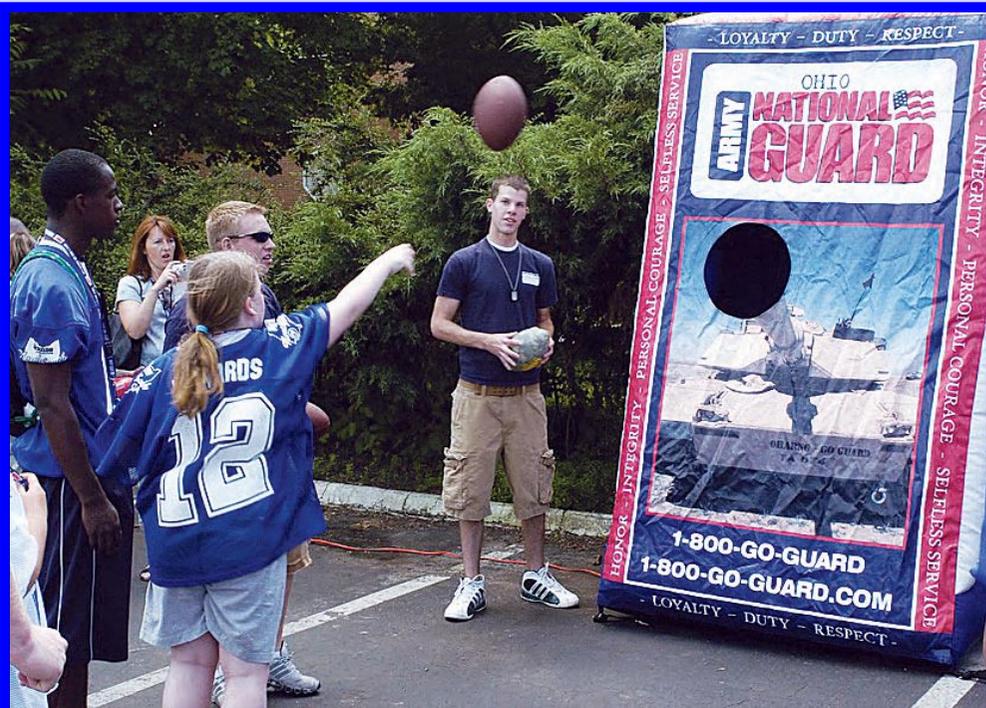
The biggest advantage of the revamped RSP program has been the significant reduction training pipeline losses in the state—recruits that drop out of the National Guard before reporting to their unit of assignment.

“In one year, our state has witnessed a 20 percent reduction in training pipeline losses,” Kambic said proudly. In August, Ohio posted training pipeline losses of 15.24 percent, down from 35.22 percent in January 2005.

## Outside Influences

Other conditions also allowed the Recruiting and Retention Battalion to succeed this year. An upsurge of patriotism brought to the door many recruits looking to serve their state and nation. An unstable economy increased the allure of free college tuition and enlistment bonuses of up to \$20,000. Raising the age limit for entrance in the National Guard from 38 to 40, and now to 42, has widened the pool of potential recruits.

In addition, opportunities such as the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) have encouraged Soldiers to cultivate potential Soldiers within their own “spheres of influence.” Traditional Sol-



**PVT James Froehlich, Company H RSP, staffs a football toss June 17 as part of the “Buddy Program” with Ohio’s All-Star Football Team and special needs children.**

SPC BENJAMIN COSSEL / 196TH MPAD



**LTC Rodney “Chip” Tansill (right) takes command of the Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion during a Sept. 26 ceremony at Beightler Armory in Columbus. Also taking part in the ceremony are LTC Jerry L. Rees (left), outgoing R&R commander; COL Al Faber (center, facing), Ohio National Guard joint chief of staff; and BG Matthew L. Kambic, assistant adjutant general for Army (holding battalion colors).**

TODD CRAMER / ADJ. GEN. DEPT.

diers can earn up to \$2,000 or earn one year of free health care for providing referrals that report to basic training. Since September, Army National Guard retirees can also earn monetary incentives available to guardmembers. In FY06, 519 Recruiter Assistants (RAs) facilitated 673 contracts for the Ohio Army National Guard, about 30 percent of the year’s accessions.

“What better way to help our great recruiting team continue to build the best Army Guard than by recruiting from our own ranks,” Kambic said.

### Looking to the future

Along with all the achievements the Recruiting Command can tout as a state, two areas closed FY06 setting new company-level recruiting records.

Team Columbus, led by 1st Sgt. Tonya Curry, beat the area’s previous record of 255 by enlisting 278 Soldiers this year. “I’m proud to have been part of this team since 1993,” Curry said, “so it is extra special for me to lead the team to this victory.” She added that Cleveland has set a new goal for her team to pursue next year.

First Sgt. Jerry Coleman and his Cleveland-area Delta Company recruiters took the all-time company recruiting record to a new high with 324 enlistments in one fiscal year.

“Just goes to show you what can be accomplished when a group focuses on a goal and everyone gives 100 percent,” Coleman said.

With 21 counties to cover, the Southeast Area is home to Ohio’s FY06 “Chief’s 54” winner, Staff Sgt. Mark Campbell, the state’s top producer of enlistments for the year. In addition, Sgt. 1st Class Doug Reed of Southeast earned the “Master Seven Award,” which is presented to the Area NCOIC who displays superior leadership and strength maintenance skills, knowledge and abilities; the area completed the year at 126.4 percent of their mission. Both men will compete against other states’ winners in Recruiting and Retention Area Command (RRAC) IV for the chance to represent the RRAC in the national competition.

Just as the Recruiting Command was in the final stretch of the year, a new commander was handed over the reins. Lt. Col. Rodney “Chip” Tansill was named the new commander as Rees moved on to the job of director of operations for the Ohio National Guard (J3). According to Rees, his departure will have no negative impact on the future success of the command. “This battalion’s structure was set up to allow the program to run long-term,” he said.

“Following Lieutenant Colonel Rees as the Recruiting and Retention commander will be extremely challenging for me, but with the team that he has put into place, I am sure we will all be successful.” said Tansill, who spent the last 30 months serving as commander of Ohio’s 52nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction). “I could not have been given command of a more professional, hard-charging and focused organization.”

“Jerry’s vision has set the stage for Ohio’s success in the strength maintenance fight,” Kambic said. “He has kept Ohio ranked Number One in large states this entire year, and his recruiters continue to meet or exceed every mission given to them. I have no doubt that Lieutenant Colonel Tansill will be able to take this team to even greater heights in FY07.” **AG**



SGT BENJAMIN COSSEL / 196TH MPAD

**SSG Chuck Boggs (in red T-shirt) of the Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting Command explains to members of the Ohio All-Star Classic Football team and their special needs buddies how they must navigate through a simulated minefield.**

**Ohio National Guard keeps buddies busy during football ‘All Star Camp’**

WESTERVILLE—Frisbee discs and water-bottle caps lay forming a square, beach balls and blocks arranged around a circle, basketballs and footballs spread out over the area; it wasn’t a typical day for Staff Sgt. Chuck Boggs of Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting Command.

Boggs and his team of recruiters were at the Otterbein College Football stadium June 14, for a very special event.

The annual Ohio All-Star Classic brings together the best high school football players from around the state to compete in a North vs. South game. The week leading up to the game is chock full of practice, practice, practice, but other team-building and community service events are planned throughout.

“Today, the players are going to be paired up with a special needs child from the Ohio Special Olympics and Columbus Children’s Hospital,” said Ohio High School Football Coaches Association (OHSFCA) past president and current game coordinator Jerry Cooke. “We’ve asked the National Guard to set up a series of events that the players and their buddy will have to work through together.”

A recent partnership between the OHSFCA and the Ohio National Guard (ONG) prompted the involvement of the ONG Recruiting and Retention Command, which sent 10 recruiters to the stadium to support the festivities.

Once on site, the recruiters set up a series of obstacles that the players, who were blindfolded, had to rely on their buddies to guide them through.

“Over here we have a minefield,” said Boggs, pointing to a series of Frisbee discs and water-bottle caps laid out in a large square. “It will

require that the blindfolded person know their buddy’s voice, follow their instructions and trust them to get them through.”

Boggs said finishing all obstacles would help build teamwork.

“These sorts of activities provide an opportunity for the football players to mentor their buddies, to build trust and a relationship...and just have fun,” he said.

Boggs also said that such activities were an essential part of recruiting even though they were not actively recruiting this day.

“It’s really important to develop a relationship with the communities you work in,” said Boggs. “All too often people see recruiters out there and think all we’re doing is trying to get people to join the Guard. Events like today’s—where we’re just out here setting up activities for the kids—really help develop a positive relationship within the community.”

Each child was given a jersey that matched the player they spent the day with. No. 43, Phillip Evans of Bucyrus, helped Delaware resident April Smithson navigate a beach ball, without using any hands, through a series of step obstacles known as the beach ball train.

“I really liked the beach ball train,” Smithson said giggling. “I’m having a really good time.”

In past years, the players spent an afternoon visiting with kids at the Columbus Children’s Hospital, Cooke said.

“It’s usually the highlight of the week,” he said. “But this is the first year we’ve brought the kids down here and matched them up with players for an afternoon.”

For kicker Tad Kilburn of Lemon Monroe High School, teaming up with Zach Watts from Columbus Children’s Hospital gave the young man a bit of perspective.

“This has been a really great experience,” Kilburn said. “It really opens your eyes. You really can’t take things for granted. Football really is just a small part of life.”

**SGT BENJAMIN M. COSSEL / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

**Special 178th Fighter Wing team makes presence in local community**

SPRINGFIELD—The 178th Fighter Wing American Cultural Awareness Team completed their first recruiting assistance outing at Xenia’s Old Fashion Days, Sept. 15 - 17. The goal was to support recruiting for one of the targeted communities, create awareness of the organization and increase community involvement in the surrounding cities.

An information booth was set up to hand out information on the Air National Guard, tuition assistance and job opportunities. The event was the first of its kind because participants in the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program manned the booth, not recruiters.

“I was very pleased with the outcome of the booth,” said Senior Master Sgt. Otis LeMaster, human resource advisor and organizer of the booth. “Possible recruits gave information for our G-RAP folks to contact to continue the recruiting process.”

The event combined the direction of the G-RAP program and the initiatives of the Cultural Awareness Team. The team wanted to draw attention to Hispanic influence in the military in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

“This event was the first time that I was involved in a community outreach and was truly moved by the support and kind words that so many civilians shared with us over the weekend,” LeMaster said. “The efforts of everyone involved plus the support of senior leadership made the event a major success.” **1LT KATHERINE ARVAI / 178TH FIGHTER WING**

**Armory hosts amateur boxing event, draws good local attendance**

STOW—The Stow Armory, home of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of 1-107th Cavalry, hosted an amateur boxing tournament featuring some of the best young fighters in north-eastern Ohio. This sixth annual Thunder and Lightning Tournament was brought to the armory on April 15 in front of several hundred cheering fans.

The tournament hosted fighters of all ages and some from out of state and Canada. The fight headliner was 18-year-old Shawn Porter, a local boxer and senior at Stow High School. Porter boasted an amateur record of 143-10 and has been fighting since he was 8 years old. Although his biggest accomplishment was winning the Pan Am Tournament in 2004,

he has bigger goals: "I'm looking to fight in the 2008 Olympics," he said.

Bob Earley, a Vietnam veteran and promoter for the event, said having the fight at a National Guard armory would be good for the younger crowd. "I think the mix of the National Guard is a great thing. You guys defend our country and give a good example for young people."

The fight was organized by HHC's recruiting and retention noncommissioned officer, Staff Sgt. David Sollberger, who said that with Porter being a local fighter, the event would be good for the community since it was held at the local armory. "Shawn goes to Stow High School right down the street and we just wanted to try to do good things for the neighborhood."

Sollberger said he thought the event went well and helped give exposure to the local armory and National Guard. "It was a very clean, family-oriented event," Sollberger said. "We had no trouble with the patrons, everything cleaned up nice. It was good exposure and it let people know that we are a part of the community." **SPC HUGH MARTIN / HHC 1-107TH ARMOR**

## Camp Perry ceremony marks rededication of Viale Range

CAMP PERRY—Retired Brig. Gen. Charles Viale took aim with the M-1 carbine rifle, peered down the sights and carefully pulled the trigger. With a single shot, the 1,000-yard range at Camp Perry was reopened and thousands of marksmen competing at the National Rifle Association Annual Matches swarmed the ready line.

Viale turned and waved to the applauding audience, still holding the rifle, the same style his father, 2nd Lt. Robert Viale, carried in 1945 when he gave his life protecting his Soldiers. The range, first built in 1906, is named after 2nd Lt. Viale, who received the Medal of Honor as a platoon leader in Company K, 148th Infantry, 37th Infantry Division.

The brief ceremony marked the completion of a \$1.5 million project that began in September 2005. The work, completed by QBS Inc., of Alliance, and Camp Perry Staff, demolished and replaced the old berm as well as updating the target racks and carriers.

The update continues to make Camp Perry one of the premier marksmanship facilities in the world. Camp Perry

is used throughout the year by Ohio National Guard members as well as hosting the monthlong national matches that have been held there since 1907.

In attendance were two veterans of Company K who were with 2nd Lt. Viale in February 1945 during the vicious street fighting for Manila in the Philippines. Brig. Gen. Viale commented on the astonishing feats his father and the men that served with him achieved during the war. His tribute included remembering one of his father's Soldiers who had recently passed away, "Our country lost a hero, another of the great generation. We thank you and your many brothers for that gift of freedom."

The range was first named in honor of Viale in 1954 when seven other ranges and buildings at Camp Perry were dedicated in honor of the 37th Division's Medal of Honor recipients. Viale single-handedly destroyed one Japanese pillbox and with the assistance of a bazooka team took out another. He then led his platoon into a building adjacent to another Japanese pillbox. Grasping an armed grenade, he started up a ladder to throw the grenade down on top of the enemy. His wounded right arm weakened and, as he tried to steady himself, the grenade fell to the floor. In the 5 seconds before the grenade exploded, he dropped down, recovered the grenade, and looked for a place to dispose of it safely. Finding no way to get rid of the grenade without exposing his own men or the civilians to injury or death, he turned to the wall, held it close to his body, and bent over as it exploded. Viale died in a few minutes, but his heroic act saved the lives of others. **SSG JOSHUA MANN / JFHQ-OHIO**

## Scenario-based exercise gives new life to Army Common Task Testing

NEWTON FALLS—They crept through the woods, rain pounding down over them, scanning for enemy presence. Suddenly a loud boom shattered the silence. As an incoming mortar round crashed down nearby, the Soldiers scattered, diving for cover.

"Two hundred meters to your twelve o'clock!" shouted the team leader "Now! Move! Move! Move!"

The troops scrambled to their feet and



SGT BENJAMIN COSSEL / 196TH MPAD

**The 237th Personnel Services Battalion's 1SG William Workley (right) shows SFC Robert McGuire the convoy route his platoon will take during scenario-based Common Task Testing evaluations at Ravenna Training and Logistics Site.**

raced forward to the rally point, where an evaluator listed their "casualties" and continued to observe their actions.

Train as we fight—it's a motto the Army lives by. Soldiers from the Ohio National Guard's 237th Personnel Services Battalion gathered Aug. 18-20 at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site (RTLS) for a weekend of training and evaluation. But this year, the battalion leadership wanted to do something different. So they decided to implement scenario-based training instead of the station-based model used in the past.

Every two years, Army National Guard Soldiers are required to certify their proficiency in basic soldiering skills during common task testing (CTT). The tasks are separated by skill level according to rank. For instance, a private must know how to evaluate a casualty and react to direct and indirect fire. Sergeants and above must also know how to request medical evacuation and conduct a risk assessment.

"I remember two years ago when we did this. We were back behind Beightler Armory in the wood line," said Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1st Sgt. William Workley. "Soldiers would be stacked up 10-deep in line waiting to get to a station. An evaluator would give them their task and the Soldier would just spit back to the evaluator what was in the CTT manual. We wanted to take all the tasks and figure out which ones we could logically group together into a real-life type scenario."

The exercise focused on three training scenarios, based on platoon-level tasks, through which they could incorporate all individual Soldier tasks. They created "lanes" at the testing site for each of the three scenarios—conducting a movement to contact, conducting a defense and conducting a tactical road march (in military vehicles). **SGT BENJAMIN M. COSSEL / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**



SSG KIMBERLY SNOW / 196TH MPAD

**Deborah Wayt (right), wife of Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, speaks to students at Norwich Elementary School during a surprise visit to thank the children for their support of 16th Engineer Brigade Soldiers deployed to Iraq.**

### Soldiers, family members thank students for deployment support

HILLIARD—Norwich Elementary School students recently received a special thank-you from some Ohio National Guard Soldiers and family members in this Columbus suburb.

Deborah Wayt, wife of Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio's Adjutant General, and Anita Timmons, wife of Brig. Gen. Robin Timmons, commander of the then-deployed 16th Engineer Brigade, visited the school to treat the children and their teacher, Cathie Maple, to a special surprise.

Maple, wife of Staff Sgt. Robert Maple, who was deployed to Iraq with the brigade's headquarters company, teaches a group of about 125 fourth- and fifth-graders at Norwich. After learning their teacher's husband was called to service in November 2005, the children decided to adopt the Columbus-based unit. They began sending holiday cards, home-made presents and care packages to the deployed Soldiers.

Cyndi Gerris, one of the school's parent volunteers, came up with craft ideas, which the students made and mailed to the troops. The Gerris' made it a family affair, working on the projects together.

After receiving the cards and gifts, Brig. Gen. Timmons responded by sending his wife a U.S. flag which had flown over the unit's headquarters in Baghdad to present to the school. He also sent Gerris a personal thank-you note.

"My husband was really impressed," Gerris said. "He said, 'Oh my! You got a note from a general!' Me and my daughter

are writing him back."

When Deborah Wayt heard about what the children were doing for the deployed Soldiers, she decided she wanted to do something for them. So she called Anita Timmons, who suggested the United Through Reading program as a way to give back to the kids.

United Through Reading, the military extension of the Family Literacy Foundation, enables deployed parents to connect with their children while at the same time promoting literacy. Through the program, deployed parents read stories in front of a video camera, then record the session to videocassette or DVD and send it back home to their children. The spouse or guardian at home records the

child's reaction and completes the circle by sending the recording back overseas.

Wayt and Timmons decided a book with a patriotic theme was best suited for their surprise, so they went to the bookstore and selected "The Flag We Love," by Pam Munoz Ryan. They then approached the school principal with their plan, who helped facilitate their surprise.

"This was our chance to thank the kids for everything," Wayt said. "We wanted to tell the little children how much we appreciate them, and we thought it would be awesome if one of our Soldiers could read the children a book from way over there in Iraq."

After sending the book to the brigade chaplain and unit United Through Reading coordinator, Col. Richard Genzman, and coordinating the surprise reading with the school principal, they anxiously awaited the DVD, which finally arrived just days before they were to show it.

The day of the reading, the two women, eager with anticipation, met at the Wayt home and headed over to the school. After meeting briefly with the school principal, they all headed to the school library to await their guests of honor, who soon began filtering into the room.

When all were present, Wayt thanked the children for their efforts and presented the flag to Maple, who accepted on behalf of the school. Wayt then told them she had a special surprise and asked the puzzled Maple to remain standing with her. She began explaining the United Through Reading program and told the students that a very special Soldier would read to them.

As the DVD began to play, Maple heard

a familiar voice and looked up at the television screen. She brought her hand to her mouth in astonishment, her eyes glued to the screen, as she watched her husband begin reading to her students.

"I'm amazed that my husband did this," she said. "The fact that he did this for the children is just wonderful. It was overwhelming."

Maple, already familiar with the program, said the program promotes both love and literacy and also fosters a sense of community in the children.

"I think the children need to learn to give back," she said. "In giving, I think we learn."

Staff Sgt. Maples wound up his reading with a personal message to the children.

"From all of us here in Iraq to all of you there who sent us cards and gifts all year, we really, really appreciate it," he said. "Thank you very much." **SSG KIMBERLY SNOW / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

### Ohio Air National Guard announces selection of Boggs as chief of staff

COLUMBUS—Brig. Gen. (Select) Robert Boggs, vice wing commander of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, has been chosen as the new chief of staff for the Ohio Air National Guard and promoted to the rank of brigadier general.



**Boggs**

In his role as chief of staff, Boggs will serve as a member of the Joint Force Headquarters at Beightler Armory in Columbus. He replaces Brig. Gen. Homer Smith, who will be retiring in 2007. As chief of staff, Boggs' responsibilities will include evaluation, issue resolution, action recommendation, technical assistance and guidance for the more than 5,000 members of the Ohio Air National Guard.

As vice wing commander, Boggs was responsible for 1,400 personnel and the operation of two KC-135 tanker aircraft squadrons. He enlisted in the 178th Combat Support Squadron at Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport in 1971 and served in various support and command positions throughout Ohio's four flying wings.

Boggs resides in South Vienna, Ohio with his wife, Cindy; daughter, Fleming; and son, Sage. He holds a doctorate in organizational development from The Union Institute in Cincinnati. **ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**Road to commission a challenge for Soldier, but says journey worth it**

RICKENBACKER AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE—After overcoming many heartbreaks and obstacles the past several years, Spc. Bernadette Collins’ dream became reality.

The Ohio Army National Guard member, of the 337th Personnel Services Detachment, was promoted to warrant officer during a brief ceremony April 23.

Collins traveled a long road to become a warrant officer, though. She did not realize the path she wished to take would lead her around so many curves.

After contracting into Officer Candidate School and finishing at the top of her class, she earned the Outstanding Approval Award for Most Improved Soldier of her cycle.

After OCS, the Army age limit for commissioning was quickly approaching as Collins waited for her security clearance. During this process, Collins knew that she would not be able to meet the requirements in time, so she started to think of other options.

She considered becoming a warrant officer shortly after OCS graduation. Since the age requirement of a warrant officer is higher than a commissioned officer, she pursued the path of becoming a 42A, military personnel technician. Her completion of OCS aided in acquiring the waiver necessary to attain the rank of warrant officer.

“I always felt I was a leader,” Collins said. “I’ve always been a take-charge kind of person.”

Collins’ efforts paid off when she was pinned by Col. Michael E. Beasley, 371st Corps Support Group commander, and her husband, retired Sgt. 1st Class Carlwin Collins.

“It took a long time, but I’m very happy,” Carlwin said. “I’m very proud of her.”

With the increase in age limit to become a commissioned officer, Collins subsequently submitted a packet and is now a second lieutenant. **SPC RYANA. CLEARY / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

**180th Fighter Wing member earns EMS honor for life-saving actions**

TOLEDO—Maj. Duane Meller, a nurse with the 180th Medical Group, along with the Life Flight crew and the City of Shelby Fire department were recently awarded the EMS Star of Life Award in Columbus. This honor is awarded annually from the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Meller was working with St. Vincent/MUO Life Flight in November 2005. His

crew was dispatched at 2 a.m. one day to respond to an injury accident. A truck driver had lost control of his semi, which rolled onto its side and collided with an electrical pole sheering it off at the base. The truck driver’s cab was crushed from the impact of the pole and the truck driver was ejected from the cab. Upon arrival the flight crew discovered an intact pole that was sheared at the base and secured by the fire department. Meller assessed the truck driver who was still conscious with his left leg pinned under the large electrical pole with 12 power lines still attached. There was major concern that any movement of the electrical pole could injure or kill the truck driver or the rescue personnel. Due to the instability of the electrical pole and the lack of circulation to the truck driver’s leg, it was decided that an amputation was needed. Just prior to the amputation the truck driver became unstable and Meller performed an emergency surgical airway. Once the airway was secured the truck driver was sedated and an emergency above-the-knee amputation was performed. The patient was flown to the Medical University Hospital. He required several surgeries and was eventually discharged from the hospital. He has a left leg prosthesis and has made a full recovery.

**180TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**‘In Honore Et Dignitate:’ Honor with Dignity is base honor guard’s motto**

RICKENBACKER AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE—To honor with dignity, the 121st Air Refueling Wing, located at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, has an Honor Guard comprised of hand-picked, professional members with one mission: to honor you. They live by the Honor Guard Creed which states their standards of conduct and professionalism must be above reproach. This statement holds validity in light of the base Honor Guard’s recent achievements.

The 22-member Color Guard received the 2004 Federal Executive Association Community Service Honor Award. Coordinator Master Sgt. Aaron Woodring received the honor of being selected as the 2004 Honor Guard Member of the Year by the Ohio Air National Guard as well as the 2005 Armed Forces Community Relations Council Ohio Air National Guard Serviceperson of the year award. Under his



COURTESY PHOTO

**Members of the 121st Air Refueling Wing Base Honor Guard stand at Columbus City Hall after a Flag Day Ceremony in June 2005. Pictured are: SSgt Elizabeth Applegate (front row, from left) and TSgt Paula Huffer; MSgt Mark Saunders (back row, from left) MSgt Andre Peaks, TSgt Jarvey Bailey, SSgt Andrew Hyatt, MSgt Charlie Odum and SMSgt Martin Frey.**

command, the Color Guard portion of the Honor Guard performed 40 details in 2006, 49 in 2005, and 32 in 2004. In addition, Staff Sgt. Daniel Petry won the Ohio Air National Guard Honor Guard Member of the year in 2005.

When looking back at some of those details, Woodring recalls one that stood out above the rest. “We were presenting colors at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and the keynote speaker was Gen. Colin Powell,” he said. “What rings out in my mind about the man is what he did when he saw us. He was speaking with all the politicians and officials, but when he saw us, he left all the politicians behind and made a direct line for us. He shook our hands and told us how much he appreciates what we do for our country.”

Master Sgt. Joseph Onesto is superintendent of the base Honor Guard. Onesto received the honor of being selected as the 2004 Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year by the Ohio Air National Guard. In the last three years, this Honor Guard has performed 29 Military Funeral Honors details.

On June 10, the 121st ARW base Honor Guard was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for all of their accomplishments. Also, on June 23, the 121st ARW recognized the 15 new members of the Base Honor Guard after completing the weeklong certification.

For more information about joining the 121st ARW Honor Guard, contact Onesto at (614) 492-3536. **LTCOL KATHY LOWREY / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING**



The transient quarters at Camp Perry offer guests many of the same amenities as commercial motels.



## Health insurance now available for successful G-RAP participants

Thanks to a unique collaboration with UnitedHealthcare, all actively drilling traditional Soldiers of the Army National Guard participating in G-RAP may also qualify for optional health care coverage (retired members of the Army National Guard are not eligible for the health care program).

Nationwide coverage began Sept. 22, and the plan includes medical, dental, vision and life insurance. Coverage options for Recruiter Assistants include:

Option 1—Individual health care insurance (\$3,100 value). One accession will qualify for 12 months individual coverage; Recruiter Assistant becomes eligible for 12 months of individual health care insurance coverage 30 days after verification of the first accession.

Option 2—Family health care insurance (\$7,900 value). Three accessions will qualify for 12 months family coverage; recruiting assistant elects to defer single coverage in order to qualify for family coverage; Recruiting Assistant becomes eligible for 12 months of family health care coverage 30 days after the verification of the third accession.

If you are interested in this health care option or if you'd rather earn \$2,000 for every new recruit you bring into the Guard, apply for the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program today by visiting [www.guardrecruitingassistant.com](http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com). **DIANE L. FARROW** / OHARNG RECRUITING MARKETING

## Transient quarters among many recent upgrades at Camp Perry

CAMP PERRY—The Ohio National Guard's Camp Perry Training Site, located near Port Clinton, was recently treated to a \$2 million face-lift.

Construction and renovation projects over the past several years have added

or improved several features to the site best known for its world class Viale Range Complex, home of the annual National Rifle and Pistol Matches.

Located on the shores of Lake Erie at 1000 Lawrence Road near Port Clinton, Camp Perry offers vacation and recreation facilities as well as a conference center that can accommodate groups of up to 500 people.

Construction on the Camp Perry transient quarters began in September 2002 and was completed in March 2003. A 40-slip recreational vehicle park opened in July 2006. Discounts on single rooms, suites and cottages are offered to all military and retired military members.

Improvements were also made to each of the facility's four 200-man barracks and officer quarters, including newly painted interiors and exteriors, overhauled restroom facilities and new mattresses.

On site amenities include an Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) post exchange, chapel and fishing pier. Local attractions include Cedar Point amusement park, Lake Erie islands, charter fishing, boating, shopping, state parks and restaurants

For reservations or information, call (614) 336-6214 or (419) 653-4021 extension 6214, or visit <http://www.cpmr-oh.org/index.htm>. **ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

## ONGEA scholarship deadline March 1

Both the state and national enlisted associations offer scholarships to deserving individuals who are enrolled in institutions of higher learning. All applications must be completed and returned to the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association office or ONGEA Auxiliary president by March 1. Available scholarships include the following:

- ONGEA/ONGEA Auxiliary Scholarship. A minimum of five and maximum of 10 scholarships valued at \$500 or \$1,000 will be awarded for the 2007-2008 academic year. Sons and daughters of ONGEA and ONGEA Auxiliary members, dependent children of deceased ONGEA members and ONGEA members themselves are eligible to apply.

- EANGUS Auxiliary Scholarship. The EANGUS Auxiliary will award five \$500 scholarships, as funds are available, and one \$1,000 scholarship donated by USAA will be presented to the top-ranked applicant. EANGUS Auxiliary members, their spouses and their unmarried, dependent sons and daughters are eligible.

- Command Sgt. Maj. Virgil R. Williams Scholarship. EANGUS will award two or more \$2,000 scholarships. EANGUS members, their spouses and their unmarried, dependent sons and daughters are eligible, as are the listed family members of deceased EANGUS members in good standing at the time of their death.

For complete eligibility requirements or copies of scholarship applications, call Scholarship Chair Nancy McDowell at (740) 574-5932 or e-mail your request to [ongea@juno.com](mailto:ongea@juno.com). **ONGEA COMMUNICATIONS**

## ONGSP APPLICATION DEADLINES

- Fall term, July 1
- Spring semester/Winter quarter, Nov. 1
- Spring quarter, Feb. 1
- Summer term, April 1

It is the responsibility of each individual student-guardmember to hand deliver or mail a completed application to the **Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program** Office, located at the Adjutant General's Department, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789, by the deadlines listed above.

This must be done prior to each term a student attends school. You may also renew your application online at [www.ongsp.org](http://www.ongsp.org).

For more information, call (614) 336-7032 or toll-free (888) 400-6484.



ABOVE: Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." Feucht (center, right), Ohio assistant adjutant general for Air, and Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army, cut a cake in celebration of the Ohio National Guard's 218th birthday on July 25.



AMN MATTHEW KING / 180TH FIGHTER WING MULTIMEDIA CENTER

ABOVE: The Air National Guard Band of the Great Lakes, the 555th Air Force Band, performed Aug. 20 at Conrad Park in Waterville. The event marked the conclusion of Waterville's Concert in the Park series. The 555th ensemble bands performing that day included The Thunderbirds, a jazz band; Wingspan, a rock 'n' roll band; and the 555th concert band (pictured above). The 35-piece band performs under the direction of Lt. Col. Robert Krichbaum, commander, and Staff Sgt. Haley Armstrong, deputy commander.

JOHN H. REID III / CLEVELAND BROWNS



ABOVE: Cleveland Browns wide receiver Braylon Edwards signs Terry Dean's prosthetic leg during a visit to the Browns training camp in August. Dean, a retired Ohio Army National Guard Soldier, was injured when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle during a combat patrol near Samarra, Iraq.

BELOW: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ron Shuler (left), logistics officer, and Sgt. 1st Class Dan Sayers, logistics noncommissioned officer for the Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting Command, show off one of their new customized Ford F-350 recruiting trucks. All of the Recruiting Command's new 19-vehicle fleet will be similarly outfitted complete with caps, bed liners and sound systems. The trucks replace two similarly-painted Humvees as well as several mini-vans.

# Guard Snapshots

DR. MARK WAYDA / ADJ. GEN. DEPT.



LEFT: Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief, National Guard Bureau, prepares to fire the ceremonial "First Shot" July 10 to open the 2006 National Pistol and Rifle Championships, co-hosted by the Ohio National Guard, National Rifle Association and Civilian Marksmanship Program at the Camp Perry Training Site.



SSG KIMBERLY SNOW / 196TH MPAD

# Ohio ANG wings support Global War on Terrorism

PAGES 16-17



A U.S. Air Force B-52 Stratofortress aircraft takes off as the sun sets in the evening sky on a mission supporting operations in Afghanistan. Members of the 121st Air Refueling Wing and 180th Fighter Wing, including civil engineers, security forces and refueling crews, deployed overseas earlier this year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

SSGT DOUGLAS NICODEMUS / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING MULTIMEDIA CENTER

## **BUCKEYE** GUARD

The Ohio National Guard  
2825 W. Dublin Granville Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Columbus, OH  
Permit #3754